



Christmas, the season for... plastic

Many decorations, wrappings and Christmas novelty items contain plastic.

Cellophane, ribbons, tinsel, bon-bons, many tree, table and home ornaments, lights, glitter and poppers, the list goes on.

While some items can be reused year after year, single-use items should be avoided. Who actually uses, let alone keeps the small plastic trinket found in a bon-bon?

Fun fact – making your own bon bons with the kids is a fun activity that could become a family tradition! Home-made bon bons can be made out of (re-purposed) fabric and cardboard and why not go with edible treats as the “prize”? You can even make up your own jokes! Check out Youtube and Pinterest for inspiration and instructions.

Think carefully when shopping

Major retailers offer specials on decorations prior to Christmas. Super cheap items such as lights* may only have a one Christmas lifespan. If Christmas for you isn't complete without decorative lighting then make the smart choice and invest in a quality product that you can reuse year after year.

The same applies to the gifts you choose. Novelty Christmas gifts rarely last long both in their appeal or wear and tear.

Why not gift an experience instead? Theatre, movie or event tickets, restaurant vouchers, beauty treatments or even your time and skills are all great ideas.

Wrapping

Cellophane is made from plastic and rarely survives for a second use. It can, however be recycled via the [Redcycle bin at Coles and Woolworths](#).

Where possible, better environmental wrapping options include brown paper, scarves and t-towels.

Fun fact – Op shops often have a fantastic range of scarves in excellent condition.

Decorations

There are endless options of inspiration on the internet for eco-friendly alternatives to plastic decorations. Explore your creative side and create your own decorations, wreaths, table ornaments and even Christmas trees from natural materials and textiles.

Fun fact – bunting can be a great decorating alternative to tinsel and is very simple to make, out of recycled materials (fabric and/or paper) of course! For non-sewers, paper bunting is another activity that can get children involved and part of the “eco” Christmas spirit.

Christmas Trees

If you have the space why not grow your own Australian native Christmas tree in your yard? For families the tree gets a little bigger just like the kids and it can become a great annual decorating tradition for young and old each year.

Talk to your local nursery about the best options for your local area.

There is a lot of debate about artificial vs natural Christmas trees. [Read about the pros and cons for both.](#)

If you choose plastic, look after it well and reuse again and again.

If you choose natural, recycle as much as possible through your garden or compost.

The best option, grow your own tree or get inspiration from the internet for the 100's of repurposed creative options you can make from materials as diverse as old books, fence palings and other discarded timber or metal.

*Christmas lights are considered “electronic waste” and can be recycled at all of Council's Recycling and Waste Depots at no charge.