

Happy New Year!- Now what to do with that tree?

– By Lauren Crandell, City Manager's Office



The Holidays are officially behind us but it's hard to start anew when so many of us still have those Christmas Trees lingering in our living rooms.

Did you know: Real Christmas Trees are biodegradable, which means they can be *recycled for mulch* and other purposes. Every community is different, but here are some recycling options and tips.

What you can do:

- **Tree recycling/mulching programs:** Most Bay Area waste haulers offer Tree Recycling programs; they chip and shred the trees, then make the mulch available for use in your garden. Check with your local waste hauler for *curbside tree pickup* dates, *free drop-off* locations, and instructions: [Marin Sanitary](#), [Sonoma County Waste](#), [KQED article with more jurisdictions](#)
- **DIY recycling/mulching:** Cut the tree to fit loosely into your *yard waste* container. Or, if you (or a friend) own a wood chipper, consider shredding your tree and using it as mulch in the garden.
- **Important! Never burn** your Christmas tree in a fireplace or wood stove. Pines, firs, and other evergreens have a high content of flammable turpentine oils. Burning the tree may contribute to creosote buildup and risk a chimney fire.



Do **YOU** have a question for the Green Team? Ask us, and we may use it in an upcoming eco-tip!

Love,
Your Employee Green Team
www.cityofsanrafael.org/greenteam

Resources used in this Eco-Tip:

<http://www.ehso.com/csshome/recycleyourtree.php#dm28CoH68EhteKYb.99>

<http://www.realchristmastrees.org/dnn/allabouttrees/howtorecycle.aspx>

<http://www.pickyourownchristmastree.org/SFrecycleyourtree.php#7Jy6HMISC51LPbDw.99>