



# The Green Grapevine



## O' Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree!!

Each holiday season, shoppers find themselves confronted with a choice: celebrate with a fresh, real tree, or one that is artificial plastic or aluminum. What most people don't realize is that a great choice is the traditional and natural choice - a Real Christmas Tree.



Artificial trees are a petroleum-based product manufactured primarily in Chinese factories. The average family uses an artificial tree for only six to nine years before throwing it away, where it will remain in a landfill for centuries after disposal. Almost 10 Million fake trees were sold worldwide in 2003.

Real Christmas Trees are biodegradable, which means they can be easily reused or recycled for mulch and other purposes.

Beginning December 27, 2010, the Darke County Solid Waste District and the Darke County Park District will join together to collect your cut Christmas Trees, free of charge. Trees will be accepted thru January 9, 2011 and must be free of ornaments and fake snow. You can drop your tree off at the Park District located at 4267 St Rt 502, just outside of Greenville. Trees will be shredded and used on the Park District's walking paths.

For more information, please call the Solid Waste District at 937-547-0827.

## Upcoming Events

Christmas Tree Recycling  
Dec. 27-Jan. 9, 2011

Trash Bash  
April 9-10, 2011

Electronics Recycling Day  
May 26, 2011

Document Shred Day  
June 4, 2011



Visit us on the web:  
[www.co.darke.oh.us/solidwaste](http://www.co.darke.oh.us/solidwaste)

## Get a Charge out of Recycling Batteries

Did you know that household batteries contain heavy metals such as mercury, lead, cadmium, and nickel, which can contaminate the environment when batteries are improperly disposed of? Inside a battery, heavy metals react with chemical electrolyte to produce the battery's power. When incinerated, certain metals might be released into the air or can concentrate in the ash produced by the combustion process.

Americans purchase nearly 3 billion dry-cell batteries every year to power radios, toys, cellular phones, watches, and portable power tools.

The Solid Waste District collects dry-cell batteries including alkaline and carbon zinc (9-volt, D, C, AA, AAA), mercuric-oxide (button, some cylindrical and rectangular), silver-oxide and zinc-air (button), and lithium (9-volt, C, AA, coin, button, rechargeable). On average, each person in the United States discards eight dry-cell batteries per year.

The district also collects sealed lead-acid batteries that are commonly used to power industrial equipment, emergency lighting, and alarm systems.

For a complete list of locations to recycle your batteries, [click here!](#)

## Winter Cleaning???

Cleaning baseboards and wiping down walls can be a very tedious and time consuming chore, but when they are done, they help make the whole room look cleaner. With a little elbow grease, your home can be free of dust, dirt, grime, most stains and markings.

Use this "green" cleaner for all your cleaning tasks!!



Pour 1 cup of white vinegar in bucket or bowl. Heat water to very warm or hot. Add 5 cups of water to the vinegar. Mix. Wipe down baseboards and walls with sponge or cloth rag.

## Houseplants Can Detoxify Your Home

•**Rubber Plant** Relieve your allergies with the Rubber Plant. The humidity content draws dust and allergies. The dust and allergies stick to the plant's leaves instead of lingering in the air.

•**Golden Pothos** Feel more clear minded with the Golden Pothos. This houseplant absorbs benzene (found in plastics, tobacco smoke, and some furniture cleaners) which causes you to be dizzy and tired.

•**Snake Plant** Be more productive when you have a Snake Plant. This plant works to keep oxygen levels higher in your home throughout the day.

•**Orchids** Orchids help rid your home of headache-causing items in your home such as cigarette smoke, paints, ammonia, plastics and cosmetics.

•**Peace Lily** Peace Lilies absorb chemical vapors like acetone, alcohol in hair products, and household cleaners. Use this flower to freshen your restroom.

•**English Ivy** Anywhere where moisture collects can be grounds for mold in your home. In a research study, it was found that when ivy was placed in the room, 60% of the airborne mold disappeared.



For more information and other plants, [click here.](#)