

# Zero Waste Holiday Checklist

## 1. Zero Waste Mindset

- Decide my zero waste level for this year
- Focus on progress, not perfection
- Tell friends & family early
- Choose 3–5 actions to prioritize
- Schedule 1 hour for low-waste planning

## 2. Gifts: What I Give

- Make a gift list before shopping
- Prioritize experience gifts
- Offer time-based gifts
- Choose digital gifts
- Consider high-quality secondhand gifts
- Choose fewer, higher-quality items
- Avoid novelty plastics
- Ask what people actually want

### 3. Gifts: How I Wrap

- Reuse bags, boxes, tissue
- Save paper bags & packing paper
- Use fabric wraps
- Choose reusable ribbons & twine
- Avoid glitter/foil wrap
- Use washi tape
- Make reusable gift tags
- Create a wrap-reuse box

## 4. Decorations & Tree

- Choose real/potted/borrowed tree
- If real: buy local & compost later
- If potted: choose native & plan planting
- Avoid new plastic decor
- Make natural decorations
- Reuse ornaments
- Borrow/swap decor
- Upcycle materials
- Use LED lights

## 5. Holiday Food: Planning

- Plan menu first
- Check pantry before shopping
- Right-size recipes
- Ask guests to contribute dishes
- Choose bulk ingredients
- Bring containers to deli/bakery
- Add plant-based dishes
- Make leftover plan

## 6. Holiday Food: Cooking & Leftovers

- Keep freezer scrap bag
- Make stock from scraps
- Store leftovers in reusable containers
- Label leftovers
- Send guests home with food
- Repurpose leftovers creatively
- Freeze surplus food
- Compost scraps

## 7. Low-Waste Hosting & Parties

- Use real plates & cloth napkins
- Choose compostable disposables if needed
- Set up labeled bins
- Serve water in pitchers
- Label glasses with names
- Avoid single-use decor
- Ask guests to bring containers
- Keep menu simple

## 8. Traditions & Activities

- Choose a low-waste tradition
- Host cookie swap
- Host wrapping/decor swap
- Plan experience-based activities
- Make DIY scents
- Create handmade coupon book
- Plan outdoor activity
- Document memories

## 9. After-Christmas Wrap-Up

- Pack and store decor
- Compost natural decorations
- Recycle correctly
- Remove tape before recycling
- Donate usable items
- Return jars/containers
- Rehome extra decor
- Make notes for next year

## 10. Carrying It Into the New Year

- Choose one habit to continue
- Pick an area to improve
- Set reminder for next season
- Celebrate progress