

## DID YOU KNOW – LESS THAN 100 SLEEPS UNTIL CHRISTMAS DAY!

Christmas Day signifies different things for different people but no matter how it may be celebrated, in most circumstances, a large volume of waste is generated – through not only wrapping paper and packaging, but also due to the number of gifts that are given, particularly ‘stocking fillers’, which are often items that become unwanted after a short period of time.

With less than 100 days until Christmas Day you may be starting to consider what to purchase for the special people in your life. Here are a few tips to help reduce your waste footprint this Christmas:

- Before you purchase an item take the time to consider - How long will this item last? Can I purchase this item second hand? How much waste will this item generate? What is the environmental impact this item has already made or will make?
- Instead of giving lots of smaller presents, try to make it a habit to give one good quality present.
- For children, opt for gifts that are made out of wood or good quality plastics. Try to avoid gifts with batteries or gifts made out of plastic that look like they have been sitting on the shelf for a while as they often become brittle and break easily.
- Avoid ‘stocking fillers’.
- Buy locally where possible.
- Instead of buying wrapping paper, be creative with materials you have around the home. Newspaper is a great way to wrap presents and local flax or palm fronds as ribbon with plant cuttings for the bow. You can also wrap presents with fabrics – tea towels are great for smaller gifts.
- If you do receive presents wrapped in wrapping paper, make sure you unwrap carefully and save the paper for next year. Similarly, with Christmas cards, reuse where possible.

Often the most thoughtful and memorable gifts are the ones that are hand-made, or an experience rather than an item such as a cliff-top dinner hamper, a musical, dance or sports lessons.

Claire Quintal

**TEAM LEADER WASTE AND ENVIRONMENT**

22 September 2017