

Weekly  
Waste Reduction Tips  
Reduce Our Waste Together  
Revised 1/19/26

*These waste reduction tips are posted weekly on our social media and also sent to KHNS for Public Service Announcements. It assumes a start the first week in January.*

**I'm a housebound senior with no car. How can I take care of my recycling?**

Call HFR at 766-2185 to arrange for assistance with your sorted recyclables.

**I'm confused about household alkaline batteries. We used to bring them to E-waste but now they go in the garbage?**

That's correct: these batteries are too expensive to recycle because they're made of multiple complex materials.

**Do I have to have the freon removed from my old refrigerator before recycling?**

No, HFR charges \$50 for refrigerators to cover the cost of freon removal and handling.

**How can I find out when HFR's special collection events will be held?**

Post HFR's annual flyer on your refrigerator when you receive it in the mail in the spring. You can also find it at [hainesrecycle.org](http://hainesrecycle.org).

**Where can I donate used gel freezer packs?**

Donate them to Haines Packing for customers' frozen fish purchases. They love 'em!

Week	Topic	Tip statement	
1	Where can I find newspaper to use as a fire starter?	Newspaper for fire starter is available for free at Haines Friends of Recycling and the Chilkat Valley News.	Jan
2	Where can I buy compostable tableware for an	Compostable tableware for your event is available for sale at cost at HFR. (907) 314-2209 for more information.	

Week	Topic	Tip statement	
3	Why should I sort my recycling carefully?	Recycling only works with carefully sorted and clean materials. Please! No food contamination!	
4	Where can I recycle carbon monoxide detectors?	Does your carbon monoxide detector need to be replaced? Remove batteries and take to HFR with electronic recycling in June.	
5	What do I do with used printer and toner cartridges?	Take your printer and toner cartridges to Howsers IGA or HFR when staffed to recycle. Put them in the original box if at all possible. HFR staff is available Thursdays and Fridays 9-noon and Saturdays 10-2.	
6	What plastics can be recycled?	#1, #2, and #5 plastics can be recycled currently. Look for the numbers in the chasing triangles on the bottom.	Feb
7	How can I recycle unwanted books?	Too many books? Recycle them. Tear off covers and recycle the paper in the white paper bin at HFR. We can't recycle shiny paper so please take shiny paper to the landfill.	
8	What plastics can't be recycled?	Before you buy something in plastic, check to make sure it is packaged in #1, #2, or #5 plastic, the only types we can recycle.	
9	What can I do with small amounts of construction materials?	Do you have small construction materials or are you looking for some? Check out the Scrap Box at HFR.	
10	How can I reduce how much garbage I produce?	Look for ideas on "Reduce Our Waste Together" on the HFR website: <a href="http://hainesrecycle.org">hainesrecycle.org</a>	March
11	Where can I get low cost garden supplies?	Looking for garden supplies? Have too many garden supplies? Check out the Scrap Box at HFR.	
12	Why should I garden?	Growing your own food gives you fresh food, great exercise, and cuts down on the carbon footprint to ship food from Outside.	

Week	Topic	Tip statement	
13	How can I compost my kitchen scraps?	Do you know how to compost your food waste? Ask a gardener friend to show you how to make this great resource.	
14	What is happening to celebrate Earth Day?	Watch for announcements about this year's Earth Day celebration.	April
15	Do you appreciate what HFR does? Want to volunteer?	We have lots of volunteer opportunities for all sorts of skills and time commitments. Call 314-2209 or <a href="mailto:hainesrecycle@gmail.com">hainesrecycle@gmail.com</a> to volunteer	
16	How can I get rid of left-over paint? Or find small amounts of paint?	Small amounts of usable paint can be taken to the Scrap Box at HFR after danger of freezing is over. Unusable paint goes to the Borough Haz-Mat.	
17	Didn't the Borough ban single use plastic bags?	YES! Haines passed a ban on single-use, non-compostable plastic grocery bags. Ordinance # 8.10.020.	
18	How can I start a worm farm for composting?	Just have a little bit of food waste? Think about vermiculture: composting with worms. Contact HFR for directions or see "Worms Eat My Garbage" in the library.	
19	How can I get a movable raised garden bed?	Want an easy to use and install raised garden beds? Get a dryer tub from HFR.	May
20	How can I get a easy-to-use compost bin?	Want an easy way to make compost container? Use a washing machine tub from HFR.	
21	Where should I put up an electric fence?	Put up electric fences around gardens, compost, orchards, chickens, and garbage to keep bears away.	
22	Where and when can I recycle electronics?	Recycle your electronics at our annual collection in June at the Recycling Center. (907) 314-2209 for more information.	
23	Can fish nets be recycled?	Yes! Take clean, stripped nets to the Recycling Center. (907) 723-7182 for more info.	June

Week	Topic	Tip statement	
24	Where can I get cardboard for mulching or composting in my	From the cardboard bins at the Recycling Center!	
25	What can I do with old fishing line?	There are fishing line recycling receptacles at the docks and at the Recycling Center. (907) 314-0587 for more info.	
26	It's patriotic to take care of our country!	Let's show we love our country by taking care of her through recycling and waste reduction.	
27	I'm having a party. How do I reduce waste from the party?	Do you want to hold an event that is Zero Waste? HFR can give you tips on how to do this.	July
28	Recycling and composting at the Fair!	The food court at the Fair is Zero Waste! Volunteer to help! Call (907) 314-2209	
29	Recycling and composting at the Fair!	Help our volunteers at the Fair by putting your recycling and composting in the right bins. Volunteers will help you.	
30	Where can I get rid of old eye glasses?	Do you have eyeglasses that are no longer the right prescription? You can take old glasses to HFR and we will send them to the Lions Club for distribution.	
31	What do I do with burned out Fluorescent tubes?	Recycle those fluorescent tubes at HFR. \$1 for a 4 foot tube, \$2 for an 8 foot tube.	Aug
32	Where can I take old crutches, etc?	Do you have medical devices you no longer need (like crutches, etc.)? Offer them to SAIL, HAL, or Hospice.	
33	Where can I recycle copper and brass?	Please recycle your copper and brass at HFR. Bring it to HFR when we are staffed (Thursdays and Fridays 9 to noon, Saturdays 10-2).	
34	Where can I recycle aluminum and tin/steel cans?	Aluminum and tin cans can be recycled for free 24/7 at HFR. Please make sure they are clean and sorted.	

Week	Topic	Tip statement	
35	Where can I recycle paper?	Cardboard, white paper, newspaper, and shredded paper can be recycled for free 24/7 at HFR.	
36	Where can I find metal for an art project?	Looking for winter art projects? How about building something out of re-purposed scrap metal? Check out our supply at HFR.	Sept
37	What can I do with used clothing?	Unwanted clothing accounts for about 12 million tons of waste produced every year in the U.S. How can you reduce your waste?	
38	What are some ideas to reduce clothing waste?	Reduce your clothing waste: Buy gently used and/or natural fabrics. Synthetics (polyester, nylon, etc.) are made from petrochemicals and won't compost. Compost natural fabrics. Take gently used to a second-hand	
39			
40	Is there any use for old campaign signs?	Political signs can be reused! Paint them with Rustoleum auto body primer (light grey) and use for signs for events.	Oct
41	What can I do with unwanted pet supplies?	Extra pet supplies? Food your cat won't eat? You can take extra supplies to HARK.	
42	I don't have a car. How can I take care of my recycling?	Call HFR at 314-2209 to arrange for volunteer assistance with your sorted recyclables.	
43	What are those ghosts in the trees?	The Haines Borough bans single use, non-compostable plastic bags because they blow into trees, blow into waterways and can entangle fish and marine mammals.	
44	What can I do with unwanted holiday decorations?	Unwanted holiday decorations? Contact teachers to see if they can use what you no longer want.	Nov.
45	Are you going to have a large holiday party?	Contact HFR at (907) 314-2209 about how to make your party a Zero Waste Event.	

Week	Topic	Tip statement	
46	Where can I take unwanted auto parts?	Check with your mechanic to see where you can take extra auto parts.	
47	Low grade paper is taking over my garbage since it can no longer be recycled - what can I do?	Call the catalog companies to cancel mailings. But some things simply have to be landfilled, like milk or chicken broth boxes. See if you can find an alternative for these purchases.	
48	Help! I have an appliance that broke down and can't be repaired!	Drop off appliances at the Recycling Center during staff hours. Stoves and dishwashers are \$20; refrigerators and freezers are \$50.	
49	My fire extinguishers can no longer be recharged. Can I recycle the metal?	Take defunct extinguishers to the Fire Department. They will remove the hazardous materials so the canister can be recycled at HFR.	
50	What can I do with burned out holiday lights?	Recycle holiday lights and strings that don't work. Remove light bulbs. Take the wire to HFR with electronic recycling in June.	Dec.
51	What is a great holiday gift idea?	Think about making a donation to your favorite non-profit as a holiday gift.	
52	What should be my New Year's Resolution?	Make a resolution for how you will reduce reuse, and recycle in the coming year.	

Post HFR's annual flyer on your refrigerator when you receive it in the mail in the spring. You can also find it at [hainesrecycle.org](http://hainesrecycle.org).