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[News](#)
[Sports](#)
[Weekend](#)
[Community Ledger](#)
[Viewpoint](#)
[Education](#)
[Transitions](#)
[Health Beat](#)
[Sustainability](#)
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[JBLM](#)

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JBLM Installation Destruction Facility Takin' out the holiday trash, trees

BY RUTH KINGSLAND
Northwest Guardian

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After unwrapping all the presents and taking down the Christmas tree, there's usually a lot of extra trash that likely is recyclable — from cooking oil to real and artificial trees and lights. Here on Joint Base Lewis-McChord, two recycling stations offer a free way to dispose of many items.

After all, the saying goes: "One man's trash is another man's treasure." Well, that's true after the holidays, as well as at other points during the year.

The Installation Destruction Facility is located at Building 3152 on Collier Avenue, off Third Division Drive on Lewis Main. The McChord Field recycling facility is located at Building 516, behind the Exchange and McChord Field Commissary, off South Gate Road. Both facilities are open Tuesday to Saturday from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and are closed on federal holidays.

They look at all donations as potential treasure.

All items must be separated and placed in appropriate bins at the center. Both locations take a variety of items.

For those who deep fry their holiday turkey, officials suggest bringing the used cooking oil to a JBLM recycling center instead of throwing it in the trash or pouring down the drain.

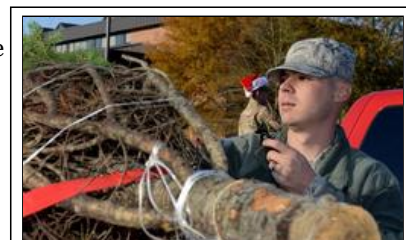
Those who wish to recycle their Christmas trees are asked to remove all ornaments, tinsel, lights and flocking before bringing the tree to a center. You have some Christmas lights that don't work? Don't toss them away — recycle them.

"Bring in the lights, too, just make sure they are off the tree," said Cathy Hamilton-Wissmer, sustainability outreach coordinator for JBLM's Directorate of Public Works.

The recycling centers also takes:

- wrapping paper,
- boxes,
- books,
- electronics and old electronic toys,
- lawn or garden metal items,
- plastic bags and bottles,
- clothing,
- barbecues.

"If you have a holiday party and have a lot of glass bottles left over, bring them on over to a recycling center," Hamilton-Wissmer said.



U.S. Air Force Photo

There are two recycling stations on Joint Base Lewis-McChord that offer a free way to dispose of many items, including Christmas trees.

Hazardous waste items — including anything toxic, ignitable, reactive or corrosive — are not accepted at either recycling center. JBLM residents can take those to Building 1210 Monday to Thursday from 1 to 3:30 p.m. or Fridays from 1 to 3 p.m.

Money that comes from recycling items at JBLM centers supports JBLM's Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs.

Recycling centers are for residential use and are open to all military ID card holders or anyone with base access. The centers on base are not intended for commercial use.

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