

Repak Green Christmas campaign targets recycling of 90 million bottles and 75 million cans used over Christmas.

- Christmas sees a 30% increase in the volume of packaging produced at Christmas time in Ireland.
- Over Christmas Ireland households produce 69,000 tonnes of used packaging, the equivalent of 47 kilos per household.
- Repak targeting to Recycle 36,000 tonnes (52%) of used packaging from households or 24 kilos of used packaging per household
- Enough packaging produced to fill 2.5 million green bins over the festive period
- Recycling this Christmas could avoid 40,000 tonnes of carbon or equivalent of taking 22,000 cars off the road.

#### **Help Ireland Avoid Christmas Celebrations Environmental Hangover**

As the cold snap continues this festive season Repak are asking people to keep up Ireland's running success of recycling this Christmas with an expected 69,000 tonnes of used packaging being generated over the period. This seasonal 30% increase on the volume of packaging including cans, bottles, boxes and wrapping, equates to enough packaging to fill 2.5 million green bins or 47 kilos of packaging per household. There will also be no shortage of the festive cheer in Ireland with 42 litres of alcohol, 60 litres of soft drinks and 2 kilos of chocolate expected to be consumed per household.

Beer bottles tops the table on packaging types produced at Christmas followed by carbonated plastic soft drinks bottles which will see Ireland produce over:

- 19 million wine bottles.
- 2.0 million spirits bottles.
- 47 million aluminium beer cans.
- 21 million soft drink cans.
- 51 million beer bottles.
- 40.5 million carbonated soft drinks
- 4 million boxes of chocolates.

The additional celebration at Christmas means that we consume enough wine to fill almost 6 Olympic sized swimming pools and enough beer to fill over 155,000 baths. We also munch through over 3,300 tonnes of chocolate the same in weight as 660 of the Christmas trees in O'Connell St.

Per household this means Ireland gets through:

- 42 litres of alcohol
- 60 litres of soft drinks
- 2 kilos of Chocolates
- 750 grams of wrapping paper
- 19.5 kilos of cardboard and paper packaging

At Christmas time we will use over 1,100 tonnes of wrapping paper, enough to gift wrap the Spire in Dublin over 10 times.

Dr. Andrew Hetherington, CEO, Repak said, “Last year we recovered and recycled over 34,000 tonnes of used packaging which was a huge success. Remembering to recycle the small, unusual and additional packaging items this year will make a huge difference in avoiding a giant Christmas celebrations environmental hangover. As the extreme weather conditions are playing havoc with recycling collections nationwide, we are urging people to be patient with the recycling collections. We ask people to bear with contractors and local authorities and where possible to store up there extra used packaging for recycling later when the collection infrastructure is under less strain. Contractors collecting from households will generally accept material left neatly beside bins ideal placed securely in boxes or clear bags. Also when using bottle banks if they are full please do not leave material on the ground as this is not only a littering offence but will further slowdown servicing of bottle banks as bottles need to be sorted before being collected. A full list of the additional bring banks locations, open hours and materials accepted is available on [www.repak.ie](http://www.repak.ie)”

Repak are targeting to collect and recycle 52% of the Christmas packaging waste generated over the holiday period, an increase on last year’s achieved target of nearly 34,000 tonnes. In addition to packaging recycling householders are also encouraged to check out [repak.ie](http://repak.ie) for details on recycling centre opening times and other waste items from Christmas such as trees, and electronic waste.

Full details of Green Christmas recycling centres, their opening hours, local contractor collection information and Christmas tree recycling drop off points is available at [www.recyclemore.ie](http://www.recyclemore.ie)

#### Christmas Recycling Hints & Tips:

As well as making an extra effort to recycle more of your Christmas packaging, have a greener Christmas by keeping the following in mind:

- Fold your used wrapping paper before recycling to save space in your recycle bin
- Wash and rinse all recyclables
- Plan meals carefully to avoid generating lots of excess spoilt food.
- On food watch best before dates carefully
- Make use of left overs or share the excess with neighbours or friends
- Recycle food waste by separating in a compost bin or household food waste bin. Don’t put cooked foods in regular household compost bins
- With electronic items ever more popular at Christmas, recycle any old or broken electrical items in your local recycling centres or by returning them to an electrical shop when purchasing new ones.
- Don’t forget to donate old or unwanted clothes to your local charity shop.
- Trade unwanted presents on [www.dublinwaste.ie](http://www.dublinwaste.ie)
- Find a home for old toys by donating them to a children’s charity or local school
- Recycle your old mobile phones by giving them to one of the many local charities like the Jack and Jill foundation
- If you have a real Christmas tree you can recycle it at one of the many designated Christmas tree recycling centres around the country. Check opening hours and locations with your local authority or use the recycling facility search on [www.recyclemore.ie](http://www.recyclemore.ie)

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