



How to Dispose of Christmas Trees

Good news! There are several ways to dispose of your tree in ways that are beneficial to the environment and avoid the landfill.

According to Joel Nohner of the Michigan Lakes & Streams Association and Eric Calabro of EGLE, here are some of your best options:

- Create a brush pile on your property to provide habitat; wildlife may use it for nesting or as a food source. Just make sure that the tree is pesticide-free and that you've removed all of the ornaments and other decorations.
- Cut the tree into small pieces or mulch it to use in garden pots or landscaping, which will return nutrients to the soil. Depending on the type of gardening you're doing and the type of tree you have, you may need to confirm that the tree is pesticide-free and that it won't negatively affect soil composition for whatever you're growing.
- Give the tree to a friend who has chickens or goats. Chickens can roost on trees and goats love to chew on them. Again, make sure the tree is pesticide-free before allowing animals to use it.
- Recycle your tree through your municipality. Many cities and towns collect trees or have designated drop-off locations; these trees are usually turned into mulch.
- Do not put your tree in a lake or any body of water. It is NOT good fish habitat.

Their article in the MLSA winter 2024 newsletter, available at mymlsa.org, is full of great information about our natural resources.