



**Institute of
Waste Management
of Southern Africa
MEDIA RELEASE**

Manage your waste this holiday

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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With another holiday around the corner, let's make a concerted effort to remember our responsibility to care for our precious environment.

Most of us will be spending our time enjoying social occasions and no doubt be seduced, once again, by brightly coloured, fancy packaging containing irresistible treats. While we enjoy them, the Institute of Waste Management of South Africa (IWMSA) urges us to remember to recycle, especially when it's during these times that we're likely to generate more waste than usual.

Many schools run recycling programs which not only help to reduce the load on our overstretched landfills, but also serve to raise badly needed funds. This way, in addition to encouraging our youth to see recycling as a normal part of daily life, we can all contribute to the economic health of our communities. Even if you don't have children at school, you should be able to use these disposal facilities as they are usually conveniently situated for public access.

It is especially important to properly dispose of plastic, cans and glass. There really is no excuse for simply throwing away any of these materials or to leave them lying around in public places. Plastics particularly clog up our waterways and cause untold harm to our wild creatures, so take them home if you are picnicking, separate and store recyclables until you can correctly dispose of them, and make it a part of your routine to ensure they arrive at the right destination.

Stan Jewaskiewitz, Acting President of IWMSA, assures us that they are fully committed to continuously encouraging all their partners and each individual in South Africa to work together in generating as little refuse as possible. He says "As responsible custodians of this beautiful land, we need to reduce, reuse and recycle at every opportunity. It's a mindset", he adds, "and it's not really difficult to adopt. It should be a challenge to see how little you can put in the wheelie bin, and of course, it's rewarding when you realise that you really can make a difference."

We have visitors arriving soon from countries across the globe, some of whom have been recycling for many years and who would think of doing nothing else. We too can prove that we are proud of our surroundings by taking simple daily actions in fighting the war on waste.

Why not make recycling a family project using simple measures; buy fewer over-packaged items, rinse out cans and put them aside, take note of the plastics you might be tempted to dump in the bin, flatten those cardboard cereal and other boxes – or get creative and cover them to use as gift bags, for example. Above all, if your local refuse removal service doesn't offer to pick up recyclables separately, please drop them off at your nearest recycling zone.

About the Institute of Waste Management of Southern Africa - The IWMSA is a professional, multi disciplinary organisation with voluntary membership established to promote the science and practice of waste management and is a non-profit organisation. For more information contact the IWMSA on: (011) 675 3462, e-mail: iwmsa@telkomsa.net or visit www.iwmsa.co.za

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