

**Green crackers:** Try to avoid firecrackers altogether. If you do want to fire some, consider green crackers.

**Clay lamps:** Light traditional clay/earthenware lamps (*diya*) instead of electric lights/ candles. Oil *diyas* are not very polluting, whereas wax is not biodegradable. Buy *diyas* directly from local craftspeople/small vendors to help brighten up their Diwali.

**Eco-friendly decoration:** Use seasonal flowers and leaves for Diwali decoration. Think of using old dupattas, silk sarees etc. for decorations. Involve your kids and use old CDs, bangles and other craft material to make interesting décor items.

**Natural rangolis:** Use natural colours (rice powder, turmeric etc.) for *rangolis* instead of chemical colours that harm your skin and cause soil/water pollution. Incorporate flowers, petals, leaves, grains, and pulses in your *rangoli*. Also, pulses and grains used for *rangolis* can be later washed properly and used as birdfeed or given for cooking to assist the poor.

**Gifting:** Choose your Diwali gifts with care to the environment. Gift a plant. Shop using jute or cloth bags instead of plastic bags. Avoid



**Shopping:** You might want to buy new clothes and gifts for Diwali. Curtail your instinct, as additional shopping uses up natural resources and clutters your home. Also, instead of shopping online, do your festival buying at neighbourhood stores to support the local community. Instead of disposing off, give forward your pre-loved used items to those who can use them. You can also donate to 'aap le no otlo', a CERC project for collection and distribution of used items among the needy.

**Biodegradable cutlery:** If you are hosting a small Diwali get-together, use biodegradable plates, cups and glasses. Banana leaf plates and bamboo plates are good options. Serve drinks in *kulhads* (mud pots). Avoid using plastic.

**Festival waste:** Festivals can lead to accumulation of large quantities of waste. Segregate the waste and discard it in a responsible manner.


*Let us celebrate Eco-friendly Diwali*


MoEF&CC's Environmental Information System, Resource Partner on Environment Literacy- Eco-friendly Labeling & Eco-friendly Products

Consumer Education and Research Centre

*Wish you all a very HAPPY DIWALI*



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