



## Don't Let Go:

Most of us have memories of releasing a balloon into the sky. Some believe when you release a balloon into the atmosphere, it goes up, up and up until it eventually reaches outer space and disintegrates. But of course, balloons always come back down, and they don't magically land in a garbage bin.

Because latex balloons are biodegradable, some believe their release and return will not cause any harm. Whilst it is correct latex balloons are biodegradable; they still must be disposed of properly to return to the environment safely and naturally. Additionally, the attached ribbon often is not biodegradable and may cause damage if entangled in the ocean or on land.



It is our job as an industry to encourage the use of **Smart Balloon Practices**. Hyper-awareness is essential because communities around the globe are increasingly aware that released balloons eventually return as litter. It's crucial we act now to protect our environment and the future of balloons. Toward that end, Pioneer Balloon Company and The Balloon Council have adopted official positions on the release of balloons.

## Worth the Weight:

### Balloons Should Not Be Released



The Balloon Hut has worked to implement an industry position against releasing any balloon into the environment. Don't let go: Inflate. Weight. Enjoy!



The Balloon Hut promotes, promoting the responsible, safe and fun use of balloons.

#### EBPC Code of Best Practice for Balloons



### Our Policy on Balloon Releases

The Balloon Hut, **does not support balloon releases**, as we wish to protect the environment from any unnecessary litter.

We urge our customers not to endorse or undertake balloon releases and our message to consumers is "**Don't let go**".

**Please dispose of waste responsibly**



## Please dispose of waste responsibly

We would urge you to dispose of your waste responsibly and recycle where possible.

For example, empty disposable helium cylinders can be taken to the steel recycling section of your local household refuse centre.

### Did you know?

Because The Balloon Hut is committed to responsible sourcing, all Qualatex latex balloons are made from rubber trees located in plantations that are Rainforest Alliance Certified™.



**The Rainforest Alliance** is a growing network of farmers, foresters, communities, scientists, governments, environmentalists, and businesses dedicated to conserving biodiversity and ensuring sustainable livelihoods. We are an international non-profit organization working to build strong forests, healthy agricultural landscapes, and thriving communities through creative, pragmatic collaboration.

In order to become certified, farms must meet criteria of the Rainforest Alliance Sustainable Agriculture Standard. The Standard encompasses all three pillars of sustainability-social, economic, and environmental. Rainforest Alliance Certified™ farms are audited regularly to verify that farmers are complying with the Standard's comprehensive requirements, which require continual improvement on the journey to sustainable agriculture. The Standard is built on these important principles of sustainable farming:

- Biodiversity conservation
- Improved livelihoods and human well-being
- Natural resource conservation
- Effective planning and farm management systems

## Reduce, Re-use, Recycle



Ever mindful of adopting this motto, we thought we'd share some ways in which you too can do your bit with foil, balloons you may have purchased after they have lost their floaty appeal:



Cut the balloon (preferably around the seam) and place silver side up onto a piece of cardboard which can then be placed behind a radiator to reflect the heat back into the room.



Use the patterned side of the balloon as unique wrapping paper – brilliant for wrapping up awkward shapes such as bottles and perfect at this time of year! You can even re-use the ribbon that was attached to the balloon to make a bow or wrap around the present to create the finishing touch. Run a pair of scissor blades along it to make curls.



Cut into strips and hang in the trees or an allotment to scare away unwelcome visitors or use as crochet material to make items such as bags or dog beds.



If the balloon has a holographic (shimmery) design on it, cut these bits of the balloon into strips to make a fishing lure – we've heard it beats everything on the market!



Create place mats! Insert a drinking straw into the valve of the balloon to release any remaining helium and flatten the balloon. Carefully cut around the seam of the balloon and glue the two parts to either a piece of card or a cake board. Alternatively, sandwich the flattened balloon between two pieces of fabric and sew up the edges.



If the balloon was part of a special occasion celebration such as a milestone birthday, you could flatten it and then frame it. (12" disc frames) make a decorative memento. Alternatively, why not cut out important parts of the design to use as a scrapbook embellishment.



Did you know? ALL [foil balloons](#), regardless of size, shape, colour or design, are silver inside which makes them particularly versatile and gives them great insulating properties.

## Wildlife-Friendly Disposal: Balloons

**Deflate, cut, and bag used balloons.**



The advice for all our customers is to use balloons responsibly and adopt the **'Don't Let Go'** policy. When the party is over, deflate and cut balloons and any ribbon into small pieces, sealing them tightly in a bag before discarding in the bin.

To recap:



All balloons must be disposed of responsibly.

Don't let go! Pin it and Bin It.



Reuse Foil (Mylar) balloons where possible.



Simply deflate with a straw, store and use again.



Once finished with, deflate and cut the balloons and ribbons into small pieces and put in the bin.



Whilst Qualatex latex balloons are 100% biodegradable, they must still be disposed of with household or commercial waste.





Many marine species, including turtles and dolphins, accidentally eat balloons because they think they are food. This blocks their stomach and can cause them to die. Animals also get entangled in balloons. This is simple to stop – just don't release balloons.



As with plastic bags, animals often mistake balloons for food. Eating balloon slivers can cause them to get sick or choke. Besides the balloons themselves, the ribbon used to tie them can choke and/or strangle wildlife.

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## Keeping Safe:



Children under age 4 are especially prone to choking injuries because they put things in their mouths, and their airways are so small that they can get easily plugged.

Children can choke on balloons when they breathe them in when trying to blow up the balloon, or when they chew on deflated balloons or scraps of popped balloons. In fact, older children are just as likely as young children to choke on balloons. [The Child Safety Protection Act](#) requires warning labels about the dangers of choking on packaging, to prevent young children from choking on balloons:



Store them out of reach of children; don't let children blow them up; and discard deflated balloons and pieces of popped balloons. Always supervise young children when they are playing.

## Helium Inhalation



Most people are aware of how inhaling helium from a balloon affects one's voice. Because of that, it is easy to understand why children and even some adults might find it entertaining and fun. Helium can be dangerous and **SHOULD NEVER BE INHALED.**

