



## Why your Ganesha Festival should be a Green Ganesha this year

The Ganesha festival is celebrated with great zeal in Mumbai every year. Despite the joy of a long duration of festive celebration, changes in the environment owing to the celebrations have been drastic. It is imperative that we protect the environment, as we celebrate the festival by adopting practices to protect water bodies and seashores from pollution; maintaining noise limitations for the good health of all and, of course, reducing waste generation to maintain clean and hygienic surroundings.

Another advantage to an eco-friendly Ganesha festival is that it provides diverse opportunities to spend some quality time with your family. Why not make your own Ganesha idol and decorations to demonstrate the importance of environment protection and hold a symbolic immersion in a bucket. These practices will help to re-establish your connect with nature; encourage innovative thinking and enhance your bond with your family.



### IDOLS

- Opt for idols made of natural & biodegradable ingredients like soil, coconut husk, etc.
- Use organic colours like turmeric, geru, Multani mitti, etc. on the idols.
- Limit size of idols to prevent water pollution by plaster of Paris and chemicals in the colours used on idols.
- Make your own idols!



### DECORATIONS

- Make your own decorations and use eco-friendly ones like real flowers, oil lamps, paper products, etc., which can be reused or composted
- Use electricity optimally; use power saving lamps.
- Use biodegradable colours for rangolis, like turmeric, henna, rice powder, herbal gulal, etc.
- Play musical instruments at a low volume and avoid loudspeakers, to prevent noise pollution



### RITUALS

- Reduce use of plastic decorations, bags, containers, etc.; reuse or recycle them. Use cloth/paper bags instead.
- Distribute food items (prasadam) in biodegradable plates made of leaf/paper



### IMMERSION

- Preferably immerse in an artificial water tank.
- Segregate flowers, garlands, clothes, plastic and other decorations used during the festival into dry and wet waste
- Compost the biodegradable holy waste wherever possible. The generated compost is a rich fertilizer ideal for gardening.
- Dispose all waste responsibly.

For a complete list of artificial immersion sites, suppliers of eco-friendly Ganesha idols and composting and waste management experts, [click here](#)

*Note: The list of suppliers is compiled and circulated for information only. This list is suggestive and is not exhaustive. United Way Mumbai does not endorse any of the suppliers mentioned in this list and the readers are required to carry out the necessary checks for quality of supplies and the services offered by these suppliers. United Way Mumbai does not stand responsible for any transactions with these suppliers.*