

A GUIDE TO HANDLING YOUR RESIDENTIAL:

- » *Trash*
- » *Yard Waste*
- » *Recycling*
- » *Household
Hazardous
Waste*

*Expanded recycling collection
effective July 2010! See page 6
for more information.*



Charter Township of Plymouth
Division of Public Services
9955 N Haggerty Rd
Plymouth, MI 48170

Solid Waste Department
734-354-3270 ext. 4
www.plymouthtp.org

Introduction to the Solid Waste Collection Program

The Plymouth Township Solid Waste Department coordinates residential curbside collection of trash, seasonal yard waste and recycling and provides guidance on proper disposal of household hazardous waste. This *Guide to Handling Your Residential Trash, Yard Waste, Recycling and Household Hazardous Waste* was created to support you in disposal of all your residential waste.

YARD WASTE STICKERS

To reduce your cost for paper yard waste bags, Yard Waste stickers are available at Township Hall at no cost. They can be applied to 35 gallon or smaller containers which you can use instead of paper yard waste bags. See the *Curbside Collection Guide for Yard Waste* on page 4 for details.



THE SOLID WASTE PROGRAM

The Solid Waste Program strives to contain costs for our residents by extending the useful life of the landfill. Reducing the amount of trash and yard waste sent to the facility postpones the purchase of a new, costly site. Preventing improper disposal of hazardous materials reduces cleanup costs to our land, waterways and the air we breath and promotes a healthier environment.

WASTE PREVENTION

Waste *prevention* should be at the forefront of our thinking followed by recycling. Try to remember the three “**R**s” of waste prevention:

REDUCE the amount of waste created.

- Purchase items that are less toxic.
- Buy in bulk to reduce packaging.
- Use fluorescent light bulbs; they last longer than incandescent ones.

REUSE what was already created.

- Repair items that break.
- Use rechargeable batteries.
- Donate unneeded items to charity.

RECYCLE items that cannot be reused.

- Participate in your curbside recycling collection program. Don't have a recycle bin? Contact the Solid Waste Department.

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YARD WASTE STICKERS

Introduction

General Collection Information

Trash, Recycling and Seasonal Yard Waste are collected on the same day. The following page contains a map of the collection boundaries.

PUT ALL CONTAINERS AT THE CURB before 7:00 AM on the day of your collection. If that is not possible, Township Ordinance allows containers at the curb no earlier than 6:00 PM the evening before.

PLACE TRASH CONTAINERS AND THE RECYCLE BIN at the curb on one side of your driveway. Place yard waste on the opposite side of your drive. *Do not set containers behind parked vehicles, mail boxes or other obstructions.*

YARD WASTE COLLECTION IS SEASONAL. The yard waste collection season runs from April through the second week in January.

MORE WASTE PREVENTION IDEAS

Buy Smart. Only buy items you need; don't buy that DVD, rent it!

Buy Durable. Make your purchases last! Stay away from disposable products.

Buy Used. When you buy a used item no new resources are used to create it.

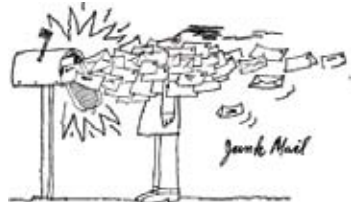


HOLIDAY COLLECTION SCHEDULE

There is no service for trash, recycling or seasonal yard waste on the following holidays:

*New Year's Day
Memorial Day
Independence Day
Labor Day
Thanksgiving Day
Christmas Day*

If your normal collection day falls on or after the above listed holidays your trash, recycling and seasonal yard waste will be picked up one day later that week, to include Saturday.

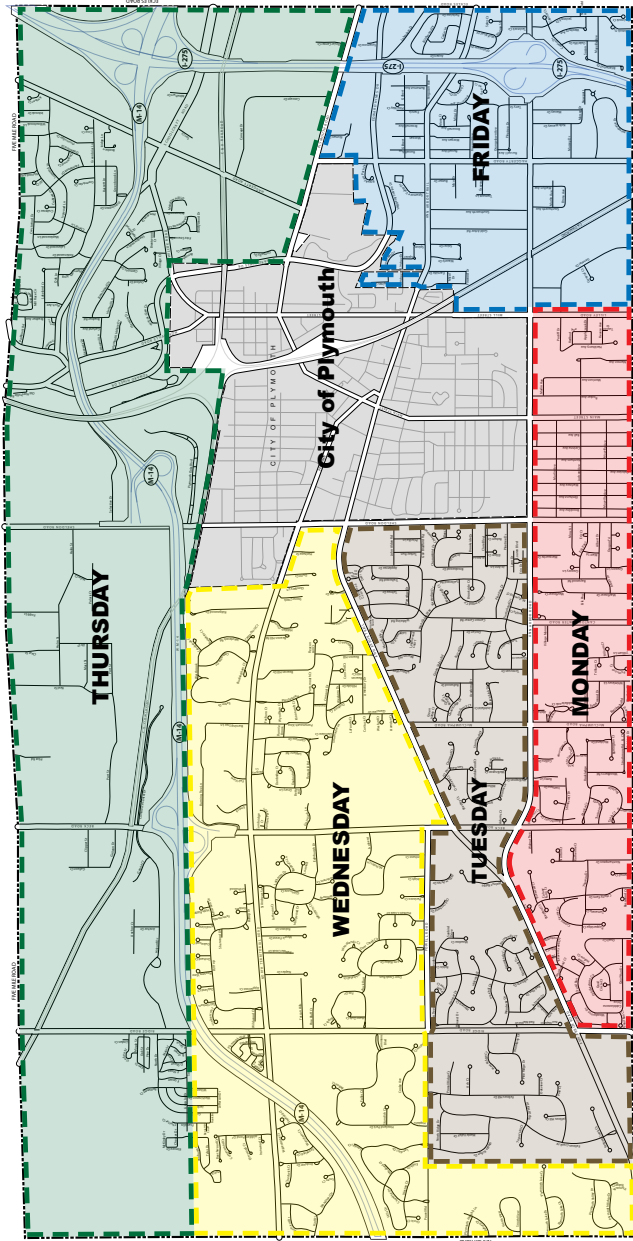


Stop your Junk Mail.

Write to the Direct Marketing Association and request a form to register your address:

Mail Preference Service
Direct Marketing Association
PO Box 643
Carmel, NY 15012-0643

Solid Waste Collection Boundaries



Collection boundaries are subject to change. Residents will be notified if their regular collection day is modified.

Curbside Collection Guide: Trash

Household trash must be placed at the curb no later than 7:00 AM on the day of your collection. Township Ordinance allows trash at the curb no earlier than 6:00 PM the day before.

TRASH CONTAINERS must be made of plastic, metal or fiberglass with sturdy handles and have a capacity greater than 20 gallons but less than 35 gallons. *Filled containers cannot exceed 50 pounds.*

PLASTIC BAGS may be used to dispose of household trash. Bags must be tied at the top and be able to withstand lifting without breaking.

These items are picked up at the curb on your regularly scheduled collection day without making special provisions:

AIR CONDITIONERS

Place at the curb. Freon is removed by the waste hauler.

APPLIANCES

Place at the curb. Freon is removed by the waste hauler. *Refrigerator & freezer doors must be removed before the appliance is set at the curb.*

BATHTUBS

Place at the curb.

CARPETING

Cut 3 ft. in length; roll up and tie or tape. Maximum 50 pounds per roll.

FURNITURE

Place at the curb.

HOT WATER HEATERS

Place at the curb.

LATEX PAINT

Must be solidified before placing curbside. Stir an absorb-all product into the can and remove the lid to allow the paint to harden. Put open cans to the curb; put lids in trash can.

LAWN MOWERS

Drain gas and oil then set at the curb. See page 12 for proper disposal methods for gasoline and motor oil.

MATTRESSES & BOX SPRINGS

Place at the curb.

MICROWAVES

The preferred disposal method is to save for a Wayne County household hazardous waste collection. However, they will be collected curbside.

SINKS

Remove counter top, set at the curb.

SNOW BLOWERS

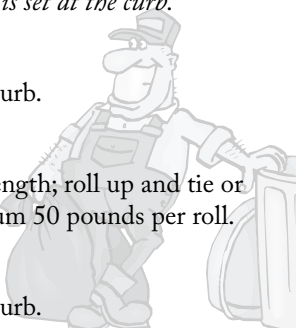
Drain gas and oil then set at the curb. See page 12 for proper disposal methods for gasoline and motor oil.

TELEVISIONS

The preferred disposal method is to save for a Wayne County household hazardous waste collection event but they will be collected curbside.

TOILETS

Place at the curb.



Curbside Collection Guide: Seasonal Yard Waste

Yard waste must be at the curb no later than 7:00 AM on the day of your collection. Township Ordinance allows yard waste at the curb no earlier than 6:00 PM the day before.

CONTAINERS FOR YARD WASTE

Yard waste shall be placed in 30 gallon paper yard waste bags available at local retail stores or can be put in containers made of metal, plastic or fiberglass with sturdy handles and a capacity between 20 and 35 gallons. Rigid containers must be clearly marked "Compost", "Yard Waste", "C" or "X". *Filled containers or bags cannot exceed 50 pounds.*

PLASTIC BAGS may not be used for yard waste.

PLACE YARD WASTE CONTAINERS

on the opposite side of the driveway as your trash with the marking facing the road.

BRUSH AND BRANCHES

Cut 3 feet in length and tie in bundles with string or twine. No more than 50 pounds per bundle.

CHRISTMAS TREES

Place at the curb on your regularly scheduled collection day the first two weeks in January. Plastic tree disposal bags, tinsel, garland and non-organic materials must be removed and put in regular trash.

GARDEN WASTE

Place in paper yard bags or properly

labeled yard waste containers or in a backyard compost pile (see page 16 for compost information.)

GRASS CLIPPINGS

Place in paper yard bags or properly labeled yard waste containers or recycle the clippings by leaving them on your lawn (see page 15 for details.)

Fruits and vegetables are not part of curbside yard waste collection. Place them in the regular trash or in your backyard compost bin. (See page 16 for information on backyard composting.)

LEAVES

Place in paper yard bags or properly labeled yard waste containers or place in a backyard compost pile (see page 16 for compost information.)

LOGS

Cannot exceed 6 inches in diameter. Cut 3 feet in length and tie in bundles with string or twine. No more than 50 pounds per bundle.

ROOT BALLS

Shake or rinse off dirt. Place at the curb with regular trash.

VEGETATIVE PRUNING

Place in paper yard bags or properly labeled yard waste containers or in a backyard compost pile (see page 16 for compost information.)

Curbside Collection Guide: Recycling

Recycling must be at the curb no later than 7:00 AM on the day of your collection. Township Ordinance allows recycling at the curb no earlier than 6:00 PM the day before.

RECYCLING CONTAINERS

Recycling is collected in the orange Charter Township of Plymouth recycle bin. Lids are available for the bins as well. If you do not have a recycle bin, need another one, or would like to purchase a lid please contact the Solid Waste Department.

This guide lists the items that are accepted in our curbside recycling program and describes the proper way to prepare the items for collection.

AEROSOL CANS

Empty contents. Throw caps and spray tips into regular trash. Put empty aerosol cans in the recycle bin.

Recyclable: Hair spray cans, cooking oil spray cans, deodorant cans, etc.

Not Recyclable: Pesticide containers.

TIN, STEEL & ALUMINUM CANS

Rinse cans thoroughly. Lids may remain attached but tucked inside.

Recyclable: Food and beverage cans.

Not Recyclable: Scrap metal, siding, tubing, framing, metal objects, paint cans, aluminum foil, pie plates.

Other options exist for scrap metal recycling. Contact the Solid Waste Department for more information.



CORRUGATED CARDBOARD

Cut or fold into 3 ft. x 3 ft. size. Place inside the recycle bin or bundle with string and place on top of or next to the recycle bin.

Recyclable: Moving and packing boxes (see paperboard and boxboard on p. 6 for other types of cardboard.)

Not Recyclable: Wax-coated cardboard.

GLASS

Rinse thoroughly. Throw lids, neck rings and foil liners in trash; labels can remain.

Recyclable: Clear, green and brown food and beverage containers.

Not recyclable: Pyrex, light bulbs, ceramics, porcelain, mirrors and window glass.

HOUSEHOLD BATTERIES

Put in a plastic, self-closing baggy and place in the recycle bin.

Recyclable: AA, AAA, C, D, 9-Volt.

Not Recyclable: Car, boat, tractor, rechargeable, button, lithium, hearing aid. See pages 12 & 13 for proper disposal information.

Curbside Collection Guide: Recycling

NEWSPAPERS, INSERTS, MAGAZINES

Tuck to one side of the recycle bin or place inside a paper grocery bag and set it inside or next to the recycle bin.

Recyclable: All glossy and non-glossy printed material.

JUNK MAIL

Tuck to one side of the recycle bin or place inside a paper grocery bag and set it inside or next to the recycle bin.

Recyclable: Clean, dry mass mailings, 3rd class mail, envelopes, billing inserts, other normal papers delivered through the postal system.

Not recyclable: Plastic wrappers, tissues, carbons, paper towel.

PAPERBOARD & BOXBOARD

Remove cellophane, liners and contents. Fold flat and stack inside the recycle bin. Smaller boxes may be tucked inside larger boxes.

Recyclable: Cereal boxes, pasta boxes, beverage can boxes, paper towel tubes.

Not Recyclable: Pizza boxes, frozen food cartons, paper towel, juice boxes and any other wax-coated material.

KITCHEN COOKWARE *New July 2010*



Recyclable: Metal pots, pans, tins and utensils.

Not Recyclable: Ceramic and pyrex containers.

PLASTIC

*New July 2010:
Accepting plastics 3-7!*

Rinse and flatten containers when possible. Throw lids & neck rings in the trash.

Recyclable: Milk jugs, water bottles, laundry detergent bottles, any rigid plastic container with  through  marked on the bottom.

Not recyclable: Motor oil and antifreeze containers, styrofoam containers or packing.

PLASTIC BAGS

Tuck loose bags inside a larger plastic bag and tie handles on top of bag to secure contents. Place inside the recycle bin.

Recyclable: Plastic shopping bags, bread bags, vegetable bags.

SHREDDED DOCUMENTS

Place inside a paper grocery bag and seal the top. Set inside or next to the recycle bin.

STYROFOAM

Take clean, dry packing peanuts to Postal Express (inside the Plymouth Supercenter) 400 Ann Arbor Road.

Take white styrofoam pieces to Veolia-Arbor Hills Recycle Drop-Off (Five Mile Road just west of Napier.)

TELEPHONE BOOKS

Leave covers intact. Stack inside the recycle bin.

Recyclable: All publications throughout the year.

Disposal Guide: Electronics

The sheer volume of electronics placed in the trash each year has become problematic.

While electronic equipment will be collected via your curbside collection, it does contain several contaminants that can cause serious health problems when they are incinerated or put in landfills. Better disposal alternatives are listed below.

COMPUTER EQUIPMENT

Contact the manufacturer. Many manufacturers and retailers offer return programs. Check your purchase documents for more information.

Take to a household hazardous waste event. Contact the Solid Waste Department for dates and locations of upcoming events.

Donate. Contact a local charity, church, private school or not-for-profit organization to see if they will accept older computer equipment.

FAX MACHINES, VCR's, TELEVISIONS AND CABLE BOXES

Wayne County offers no-cost disposal of these items during their household hazardous waste collections. Contact Wayne County at 734-326-3936 for dates and locations.

CELL PHONES & INK JET PRINTER CARTRIDGES

Industry figures indicate that there are nearly 750 million wireless phones in use today and over 500 million ink jet cartridges used each year. Rather than simply throwing your phone or cartridges into the trash consider recycling them. There are several different ways to accomplish this.

Contact the manufacturer. Many wireless phone companies offer buy-back programs. Many printer manufacturers and retailers will also take back empty ink jet and laser printer cartridges.

Donate. Many organizations collect old cell phones and ink jet cartridges for recycling. They receive money for each phone/cartridge that is returned!

Contact your favorite charity, school or Plymouth Township's Division of Public Services which applies money earned toward recycling education.

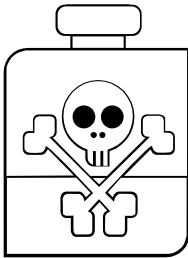


Collection Guide: Household Hazardous Waste

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE IS NOT COLLECTED AT THE CURB.

Unwanted portions of hazardous products used in the home are considered to be household hazardous waste (HHW). These products should be treated in a careful manner to avoid accidents or pollution of our environment.

To see if a product is hazardous, check the label. If it has the words “warning”, “caution”, “danger” or “poison” consider it hazardous.



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THE IDEAL METHOD OF DISPOSAL

for household hazardous waste is to use it for its intended purpose. However, if you have hazardous products that you need to dispose of, please do so safely. There are several options available:

1. Plymouth Township offers an annual household hazardous waste collection each spring. Contact the Solid Waste Department for upcoming dates and locations. Visit our web site for a list of items accepted at our spring collection.
2. Wayne County is now offering several household hazardous waste collections throughout the year. Contact Wayne County at 734-326-3936 for dates and locations.
3. Take the waste to one of the following private companies that accept hazardous items for a fee. Please contact them directly for rates and hours of operation.
The Environmental Quality Co.
(Detroit) 313-923-0080
IRWS (Wixom) 248-449-7216

Visit the Plymouth Township web site for information on upcoming household hazardous waste collection events: www.plymouthtwp.org

Storage Tips for Household Hazardous Waste

Since you generally store hazardous materials for months or even years before they are used up or transported to a collection site, it's important to follow the storage guidelines below.

Improper storage can be a safety hazard or turn usable products into waste.

Improper storage of hazardous household products can be a safety risk or turn usable products into waste.

FOLLOW ALL DIRECTIONS on the container. If the directions appear suspiciously out of date, call the manufacturer.

STORE all chemicals out of the reach of children and pets. Make sure they are in tightly sealed containers.

KEEP PRODUCTS IN THEIR ORIGINAL CONTAINERS. If the product is removed from its original container, label it with the name of the product, the date you placed the product in that container, the name and phone number of the manufacturer and directions for safe use, storage and disposal. Never store hazardous products in food or beverage containers. Use child-resistant containers.

KEEP CONTAINERS DRY.

NEVER SMOKE OR EAT while handling hazardous materials.

NEVER MIX DIFFERENT HOUSEHOLD CHEMICALS. Doing so could make the mixtures non-recyclable or even dangerous. For example, if you mix chlorine bleach with ammonia or vinegar it can create toxic fumes.

STORE PRODUCTS AWAY FROM sunlight, heat, sparks and flames, including pilot lights.

KEEP PRODUCTS FROM FREEZING. Only products labeled "flammable" or "combustible" can be stored in an unheated garage.

REPAIR CONTAINER LEAKS. If a container is deteriorating, place it in a plastic pail. Surround it with a nonflammable absorbent such as kitty litter or vermiculite to absorb spills. Label the container as described earlier.

NEVER STORE GASOLINE OR OTHER FUELS INDOORS.



Disposal Guide for Common Household Products

Disposal recommendations for many common household products with potentially hazardous ingredients are listed on pages 11-13. The disposal options listed are:

REUSE/RECYCLE is the preferred option whenever possible. This option is designated by the symbol: **R**

- Automobile service centers may accept used motor oil, auto batteries, antifreeze and transmission fluid.
- Theatre and art groups or housing organizations may be happy to receive leftover paint.
- Jewelers or hearing aid service stores may accept button batteries for recycling.
- Call the Township's Solid Waste Department at 734-354-3270 ext. 4 for recycling locations.
- Finally, consider using up the product yourself.

FLUSH DOWN DRAIN indicates that a product can be poured down the drain with plenty of water. This option is designated by the symbol: **F**

Some products cannot be broken down by the waste water treatment process and are discharged untreated into lakes and rivers.

If you have a septic system, only dispose of small quantities down the drain and dilute the substance with lots of water first.

PLACE IN REGULAR TRASH means that a product is suitable for landfill disposal. This option is designated by the symbol: **T**

Generally speaking, empty containers can be thrown away. Liquids should never be disposed of in the trash.

Some products are acceptable for landfill disposal if they are hardened or dried up. Contact the Solid Waste Department before throwing any product of concern away.

SAVE FOR HHW COLLECTION indicates those products should be saved for a household hazardous waste collection. This disposal option is designated by the symbol: **S**

Contact the Solid Waste Department to find out when and where there will be a collection event.

If you must wait for a collection event, see page 9 for storage tips.

Disposal Guide for Common Hazardous Household Products

BATHROOM PRODUCTS

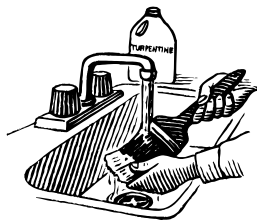
- After shave **F**
- Anti-neoplastic medicine Return to dispensing clinic.
- Chemotherapy drugs Return to dispensing clinic.
- Cosmetics **T**
- Depilatories **F**
- Hair permanent lotion **F**
- Nail polish (hardened) **T**
- Nail polish remover **S**
- Perfume **F**
- Prescription medicines **S**
- Syringes Package in a “sharps” container and take to a designated pick up location.



CLEANERS

- Ammonia-based* **F**
- Bleach-based* **F**
- Disinfectants **F**
- Drain Cleaner † **S**
- Floor stripper / wax † **S**
- Furniture polish † **S**
- Glass cleaner **F**
- Metal cleaner **S**
- Oven cleaner † **S**
- Spot remover † **S**
- Toilet bowl cleaner **F**

See page 10 for an explanation of the symbols on this page.



* Never mix bleach and ammonia; a toxic gas may result.

† Read labels carefully; may not need to be saved for HHW collection.

Disposal Guide for Common Household Hazardous Products

GARAGE ITEMS

Antifreeze	R	or	S
Auto batteries	R	or	S
Brake fluid	R	or	S
Degreaser	S		
Diesel fuel	S		
Gasoline*	S		
Kerosene	S		
Motor oil †	R	or	S
Transmission fluid	R	or	S
Windshield wiper fluid	F		



GARDEN PRODUCTS

Fertilizer, dry	S		
Fertilizer with weed killer	S		
Pesticides	S		
Rat / rodent poison	S		
Weed killer	R	or	S



See page 10 for an explanation of the symbols on this page.

* Use approved safety containers for gasoline and keep them away from flame, spark and heat.

† Do not mix motor oil with anything else.

Disposal Guide for Common Household Products

HOME IMPROVEMENT / WORKSHOP

- Adhesives / glue, water based **T**
- Adhesives / glue, solvent based **S**
- Adhesives / glue, hardened **T**
- Caulk / Grout **T**
- Paint / primer, latex, no lead See page 3
- Paint / primer, latex, with lead **S**
- Paint / primer, oil based **R** or **S**
- Paint thinner **S**
- Paint remover and stripper **S**
- Putty **T**
- Rust remover **S**
- Stain **R** or **S**
- Varnish **R** or **S**
- Wood preservatives **S**

See page 10 for an explanation of the symbols on this page.



MISCELLANEOUS

- Ammunition Call Township Police Dept (734-354-3232)
- Artist and hobby paint **R** or **S**
- Batteries, alkaline / ni-cad/ button **R** or **S**
- Fabric dye, concentrated **S**
- Fireworks Soak until saturated then put in trash.
- Fluorescent tubes / bulbs / ballasts **S**
- Hot tub chemicals **S**
- Moth balls **S**
- Photography chemicals **S**
- Swimming pool chemicals **S**
- Smoke detectors Call the Solid Waste Department.
- Thermometers, mercury **S**

Healthy Rivers Through Good Lawn & Garden Practices

Plymouth Township lies entirely within the Rouge River Watershed and all of our storm drains are connected directly to the river.

STORM WATER RUNOFF, the water that runs over the land after a rainstorm or snow melt, runs into our storm drains and can contain eroded soil, fertilizers, pesticides & car fluids. *Runoff is not treated or filtered.* It accounts for more than 1/3 of Rouge River pollution.

Landscape design and maintenance directly affects storm water runoff and water quality. Follow these simple tips to help prevent water pollution:

1. **DESIGN LANDSCAPES TO RETAIN WATER** on-site. Rain gardens and small natural ponds enable water to filter through the ground, trapping pollutants before they enter the river through runoff.
2. **SELECT NATIVE** trees, shrubs and ground covers. Native plants require less water, less fertilizer and fewer pesticides.
3. **REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF PAVED SURFACES** to lower the volume and velocity of storm water runoff.
4. **CREATE BUFFER ZONES** of vegetation near paved surfaces to allow plants to slow and filter storm water.

LAWN CARE

Use compost to build fertile soils, resist weeds and retain moisture. See page 16 for information on backyard composting.

Fertilize your lawn in September or October to promote root growth rather than top growth.

When choosing a fertilizer, select a slow-release formula.

Keep fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides off paved surfaces and out of drainage paths.

AUTOMOBILE MAINTENANCE

Wash your car on the lawn instead of the driveway or street. Better still, go to a car wash.

ANIMAL WASTE

Clean up animal waste before it washes into the storm drain. Dispose of it appropriately to prevent bacteria from entering the river.

HOME CARE

Disconnect downspouts from sewer systems and direct them to vegetated areas away from building foundations.

When cleaning up spills and leaks, do not use your hose as a broom.

Grass Cycling

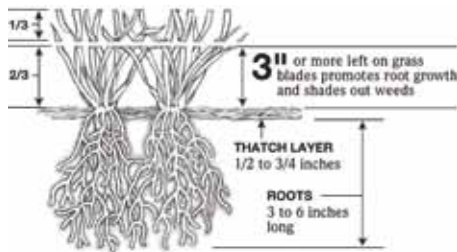
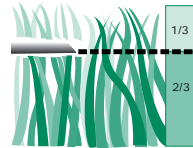
Because grass clippings are 85% water, short clips left on the lawn quickly decompose, adding valuable nutrients to the soil.

With this type of grass recycling, fertilizers can be reduced by 30% or more.



TIPS FOR GRASS CYCLING:

1. Set mower blades at the highest setting, leaving grass blades 3 inches tall if possible. Tall grass encourages deep roots and also shades out crabgrass and low-growing weeds.
2. Remove no more than the top 1/3 of the grass blade.
3. Let the short grass blades fall back onto the lawn.
4. Use a sharp mower blade. A dull blade will tear grass and provide an entry point for diseases.
5. Mow when the grass is dry.
6. Keep the mower deck clean.



Grass clippings do not cause thatch.

Thatch is the layer of living and dead roots and stems growing between the green layer and the soil.

Troublesome thatch is typically caused by lawn chemicals, compacted soil and excessive watering.

Backyard Composting

Here in Michigan there is always the possibility of having a warmer winter which may allow for earlier growth of grasses, shrubs and other perennials. Since you cannot put yard waste out for curbside collection during the winter months, you could consider backyard composting.

Compost, which has been coined as “black gold” by many gardeners, can do wonders for your lawn and gardens year round.

COMPOST BASICS

A backyard compost pile is made by mixing together:

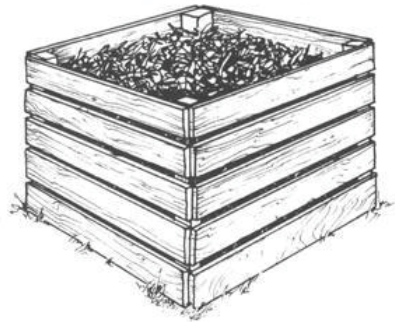
- Green, high-nitrogen material (grass, weeds, spent flowers, etc.)
- Brown, high-carbon material (dry leaves, pine needles, sawdust, dead brown plants, etc.)
- Soil
- Water

Aeration speeds up the decomposition process so mix the pile periodically to add air. Your compost pile is working when it gets warm in the middle and the material begins to break down and look like soil.

Yard waste is not the only ingredient you can use in backyard compost. Kitchen scraps can be added as well as egg shells, fruits and vegetables, coffee grounds, tea bags and water from your steamed vegetables.

There are many different ways of composting. You can purchase specialty compost containers or make your own container. A good size for a backyard compost pile is 3 to 4 feet high by 4 feet wide.

The Plymouth District Library (call 734-453-0750), the Internet, and the Wayne County MSU Extension (call 313-833-3412) have a lot of great information on backyard composting.



To ensure your compost is free of foul odors, absolutely no meat products should be put in your compost pile.

A properly prepared compost pile should not smell.

Richard M. Reaume
Supervisor

Joe Bridgman
Clerk

Ron Edwards
Treasurer

Kay Arnold
Trustee

Robert Doroshewitz
Trustee

Michael Kelly
Trustee

Steven Mann
Trustee

James D. Anulewicz
Director,

Public Services

Charter Township of Plymouth

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