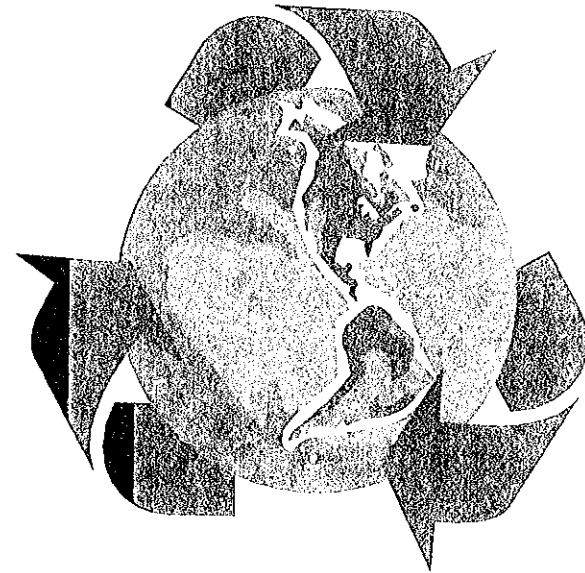


Wayne County Department of Environment

Resource Recovery Guide



Keep this guide for future reference!

Helping to make a
difference!

For further information on anything presented in this Guide, please contact the Wayne County Resource Recovery Coordinator at 734-326-3936.



Robert A. Ficano
County Executive

Department of Environment
Wayne
County

Household Hazardous Waste Tips

- Keep unused portions in their original containers with labels intact and readable.
- Store hazardous materials in a cool, dry place inaccessible to children or pets.
- Reduce your waste and save money by purchasing only materials you need and will use.
- Use products in accordance with the manufacturer's directions and follow all safe handling requirements.
- Let used solvents and paint thinners set for a while in a closed jar. The dirt and paints will settle to the bottom. The top portion can be reused. The amount of actual waste for disposal will be much less.
- Offer surplus portions of products that are usable and safely packaged to others, such as pesticides to nurseries, and paint to theater groups.
- Never pour motor oil, paints, pharmaceuticals, or chemicals down storm drains or sinks. These household hazardous wastes, other than the pharmaceuticals (see pgs. 21-22), should be recycled or taken to a household hazardous waste collection event in your community or to a household hazardous waste drop off site.
- Reduce the amount of hazardous wastes you purchase and use non-toxic alternatives when you can. If a product cannot be used for its original purpose, then the material should be disposed of properly.

Non-Toxic Alternatives

For an all-purpose cleaner: mix a cup of vinegar in a pail of water.

To disinfect: use one half cup of borax or washing soda (sodium carbonate) dissolved in a gallon of hot water.

To wash windows: mix one part vinegar to four parts water.

To deodorize carpets: sprinkle with baking soda and vacuum after 30 minutes.

To polish furniture: use equal parts mineral oil and lemon oil.

To clean floors: use 1/4 cup of white vinegar, 1/4 cup washing soda (sodium carbonate not baking soda) in one gallon of warm water.

To clear clogged drains: To keep drains clean, pour 1/2 cup of baking soda down drain and add 3 cups of boiling water. Let rest for 15 minutes and rinse. Repeat process every month to keep drains clean.

Household Hazardous Waste

Contact your municipality to find out if they have a household hazardous waste collection scheduled. If you need immediate options, contact the appropriate facility listed below. **Always call first!**

Battery Solutions - 38680 Michigan Avenue, Wayne

Phone: (734) 467-9110 Hours: M-F, 8:00 - 5:00

Accepts: Household and automotive batteries; fluorescent tubes, and mercury containing devices. Call for information regarding charge.

Chemical Analytics - 29959 Beverly, Romulus

Phone: (734) 326-9400 Hours: M-F, 8:30 - 3:30

Accepts: Fuel oil only & mercury at no charge to residents.

Environmental Quality (EQ) - 2000 E. Ferry, Detroit

Phone: (313) 923-0080; Hotline / Questions: (313) 923-2240

Hours: M-F, 8:30 - 3:30 (By appointment)

Free to Detroit residents; Minimal charge to others.

Accepts: Fuel oil, used motor oil, paint, turpentine, most solvents, hydraulic fluids, pesticides, herbicides, asbestos, batteries, aerosol cans, flammables, combustibles (oil, gas, etc.), antifreeze, car wax, and light bulbs.

Pacific Oil Resources, Inc. - 44141 Yost Road, Belleville

Phone: (734) 397-1120 Hours: M-F, 8:30 - 4:30

Accepts: Motor Oil only (in 5 gallon containers) at no charge.

SQS Environmental Recycling Group—13040 Merriman, Livonia

Phone: (734) 459-3800

Call for appointment; Fee: 75¢ per pound.

Motor Oil - See page 23.

NOTE

Wayne County's Department of Environment provides four Household Hazardous Waste Collections per year for County residents. The collections are designed to accept unwanted household chemicals for proper disposal and electronics (i.e. computers, printers, scanners, keyboards, cell phones, fax machines, and TVs) for recycling from residents. Items that are accepted include, but are not limited to, household paints, stains, floor care items, furniture polish, bathroom cleaners, lawn and garden chemicals, antifreeze, mercury fever thermometers and other mercury-containing devices. **For information on dates and locations, contact the Wayne County Household Hazardous Waste Information line at (734) 326-3936 or check our website at www.waynecounty.com/doe/land**

Reducing Junk Mail

How did they get my address?

If you'd like to stop receiving unsolicited mailings, here are several approaches for reducing junk mail. Be patient, as it may take three to six months before you notice a reduction.



(1) **Contact credit bureaus.** To stop receiving "pre-approved" credit card offers, call the credit card bureau at 888-5-*OPTOUT* (888-567-8688).

(2) **Call mail-order catalog companies.** Most catalogs provide an 800 telephone number for placing an order; call this number and ask to be taken off their mailing list.

(3) **Reduce advertising supplements.** Grocery store advertisements, typically delivered midweek, are often accompanied by a postcard; some postcards show pictures of missing children. Contact the company on the return address of the postcard that accompanies these advertising supplements. One company mailing these items is: *Valassis Communications*, 888-241-6760.

(4) **Get off national mailing lists.** The Direct Marketing Association offers removal of name from direct marketing lists. To do this write to *DMA Mail Preference Service*, P.O. Box 643, Carmel, NY 10512 or, go online at www.dmachoice.org. Also, check out www.privacyrights.org.

(5) **Request charities not distribute your information.** When you make a donation to a charity or nonprofit group, enclose a note requesting that the organization not rent, sell or exchange your name with anyone else.

(6) **Stop junk mail.** Envelopes marked "address correction requested" or "return postage guaranteed" can be returned unopened to the sender by crossing out your address and writing "refuse, return to sender" on the envelope. Then place this article of mail back in your mailbox. **DO NOT** write this on mail without that special notation; the post office will **NOT** return it to the sender unless it is so marked. Also, check out the following websites:

www.obviously.com/junkmail/
www.catalogchoice.org/
www.stopjunk.com/

(7) **Notify mailing brokers.** Some companies specialize in collecting and selling mailing lists. Call some of these companies and ask to be placed in their "suppress" files:

R.L. Polk & Company • 800-873-7655

Database America, Consumer Compilation Division • 888-859-8052

(8) **Remove your name from sweepstakes offers.** To have your name removed from the major nationwide sweepstakes mailers, contact:

Publishers Clearinghouse • 800-645-9242

Readers Digest • 800-234-9000

American Family Publishers • 800-237-2400

(9) **Businesses.** The two largest business-to-business direct marketers are:

Dun and Bradstreet • One Diamond Hill Road • Murray Hill NJ 07974-1218
• 800-333-0505

Info USA • Attention -- Business Update Department • PO Box 27347
• Omaha, NE 68127 • 800-321-0869

Business Recycling

Reducing Waste Makes Good Business Sense

Recycling makes good business sense. Garbage disposal is expensive and recycled items are marketable. Your business has the potential to generate income by following the guidelines in this handbook; while at the same time reducing the monthly cost of having your trash hauled away and disposed.

Take your
own cup
to reduce
pollution



Every time a company manufactures a product, they also make pollution – When you buy durable and reusable items, there's less to throw away and less to replace.

When you Reduce Waste...

- Net operating costs can be reduced.
- Your company can save money on the purchase of recycled content or re-manufactured goods.
- Customers, employees and the community take special notice and support environmentally friendly businesses.
- Best of all, it doesn't cost much to begin a waste reduction and recycling program!

Master Business Recycler Manual

Now available from the Michigan Recycling Coalition—gives experienced recyclers new ideas for their programs and gives beginners step-by-step instructions to evaluate their waste stream, reduce their waste, design a recycling program, and implement it effectively. **Everything you need to know to design, implement, promote and expand an effective waste reduction and recycling program for your business.**

To obtain a copy of the Manual, contact:

Michigan Recycling Coalition

P.O. Box 10240

Lansing, MI 48901

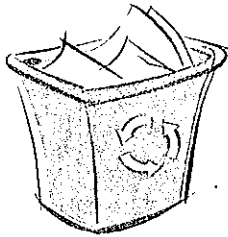
517-371-7073

www.michiganrecycles.org

Become a team member in Wayne County's ambitious plans to reduce the amount of waste that must be landfilled as outlined in the 2000 Wayne County Solid Waste Management Plan. See page 13 for businesses that offer recycling services.

Community Recycling Programs & Services

Like many Americans, you collect and sort items that can be recycled. That's good, because you help your community reduce the amount of garbage going to the landfill. But putting items out for collection or dropping them off at a local center is only the first of three steps in the recycling process. It may surprise you to learn that what you *buy* is just as important as saving the things your recycling center takes.



To Market, To Market...

Today, approximately 21% of our trash is recovered annually for recycling. Where do these millions of pounds of recyclables go after collection? Manufacturers use them to make new products—recycling's second step. The third and final step returns the new products to the marketplace. This step is one that *you* need to support if recycling is to remain part of the solution to the country's garbage issue.

Why Should I Buy Recycled?

You "close the loop" when you buy items or packaging made from recycled materials. They have now come full circle: from bag or bin to a manufacturer, to the store shelf, and back to your home. And after using the item, you can start the loop again by saving it for the local recycling program. When you buy recycled, markets are created and a use is assured for recyclables being collected in your community and in thousands of others. Manufacturers will respond by continuing to use recyclables in their products. Without informed consumers and a ready market for products made of recycled materials, local recycling programs will become more costly and fewer recyclables may be collected and processed. More reusable material will end up in landfills, and communities will need to deal with an increased amount of garbage.

How Do I Find Them?

Products and packaging made from recycled material are everywhere—in stores that sell groceries, office supplies, auto parts, and everything in between. Recyclables are transformed into an amazing variety of new products. Plastic milk jugs return to yards and parks as plastic lumber and picnic tables. Steel food cans return to the hardware store as nails and screws. Newspapers become egg cartons. There's no limit to the things that can be made from recyclables.



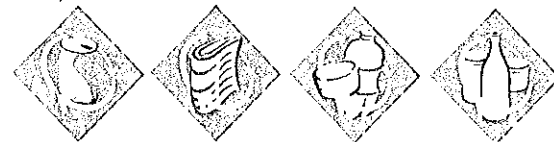
Community Recycling Programs & Services

Many products are identified recycled or partially recycled on the label or on the product itself. Others may contain recycled material but may not be identified. For instance, there's a good chance that the glass containers, aluminum and steel cans, paperboard boxes and plastic detergent bottles you buy are made of some recycled material.

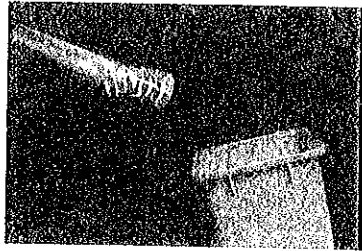
Some products and packaging also have labels describing the amount of "pre-consumer" and "post-consumer" waste that was used. "Pre-consumer" waste is also known as "manufacturing waste," and includes any scraps, trimmings, over-runs, etc., from the manufacturing process. "Post-consumer" waste is a product or other material that has served its intended use and has been discarded and then collected for recycling.

Did You Know...?

- For every ton of paper you recycle, you save 17 trees, 464 gallons of oil, 42 gallons of gasoline, 4,210 KWH of electricity, and 7,000 gallons of water.
- Using recycled paper instead of virgin materials reduces air pollution by 74% and water pollution by 35%.....and it **closes the loop!**
- Recycling glass reduces water use by 50%.
- Using recycled aluminum instead of virgin ore saves 4 tons of bauxite and 1,500 pounds of petroleum coke and pitch for every ton of reused aluminum; Recycling 40 aluminum cans saves the energy equivalent to 1 gallon of gasoline. In 2003, Americans recycled enough aluminum cans to save more than 15 million barrels of oil. Keep America Beautiful notes: it takes the same amount of energy to make one aluminum beverage can from scratch that it does to produce 20 cans from recycled material.
- Using recycled iron and steel instead of virgin ore to make new steel results in 40% reduction in water use and 90% savings in virgin materials used.
- Recycling one glass bottle saves enough energy to light a 100-watt bulb for four hours.
- Recycling one tin can saves enough energy to run a TV for three hours.



When it comes to recycling



Aim High!

How does your community compare?

Most communities in Wayne County offer a curbside recycling program. Those that don't, may have recycling drop-off centers. The table on the next page compares the residential recycling rates for all Wayne County communities. All figures are shown as reported by the communities. The average recycling rate (excluding composting) for Michigan is 20%. Some of our communities are well above the State average, but many are below. **The average residential recycling rate for Wayne County in 2007 was 7%, and the average composting rate was 11%.** The Wayne County DOE encourages all communities to continue to step-up recycling efforts to increase the rates!

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!

If your community does not offer curbside recycling, contact your local Department of Public Services office to find out the location and hours of operation for the community's drop-off center. The following businesses also offer recycling services to residents and businesses. Call first to find out the drop-off hours and other terms.

Canton Waste Recycling, 42020 Van Born Rd., Canton 734-397-5801
Plastic, paper, cardboard, tin, glass, oil, paint-limit 5 one-gallon containers, antifreeze & batteries. Hours: Scheduled Fridays 10-4, & all Saturdays 8-11, Please note: Canton residents only.

NPR Recycling, 30880 Smith Rd., Romulus 734-721-0197
Has drive-through drop off for paper recycling

Recycle America, 8 Mile & Evergreen, Southfield 248-208-2270
Has drop-off area for paper, metal, glass, plastic, and polystyrene

Recycle Here, 1331 Holden, Detroit, www.recycledetroit.com
Drop off for variety of items, Wednesdays 10-2, Saturdays 9-3

Recycle Max, Detroit 313-864-2222

Veolia Center, 10835 Five Mile, Northville Twp. 248-349-4444
Has drop-off area for paper, metal, glass, and plastic



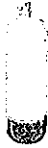
City/Twp.	Residential Recycling Rate-2007 %	Residential Composting Rate-2007 %	City/Twp.	Residential Recycling Rate-2007 %	Residential Composting Rate-2007 %	City/Twp.	Residential Recycling Rate-2007 %	Residential Composting Rate-2007 %
Allen Park	6.6	24.5	Grosse Pte. Park	30.8	3.8	Plymouth Twp.	14.6	24.6
Belleville	7.7	13.4	Grosse Pte. Shores	7.0	35.8	Redford Twp.	5.8	22.4
Brownstown	2.7	12.9	Grosse Pte. Woods	10.4	31.0	River Rouge	0.1	12.0
Canton	4.8	17.0	Hammack	0	2.5	Riverview	0.5	31.4
Dearborn	7.7	15.2	Harper Woods	33.7	17.3	Rockwood	8.4	19.4
Dearborn Heights	2.3	21.6	Highland Park	0	5.7	Romulus	11.5	10.7
Detroit	7.7	2.8	Huron Twp.	7.0	23.6	Southgate	11.3	17.6
Ecorse	0.1*	7.4*	Inkster	0.3	7.7	Sumpter Twp.	0.8	0
Flat Rock	5.2	15.6	Lincoln Park	0	13.3	Taylor	1.2	12.7
Garden City	4.0	16.7	Livonia	14.7	34.6	Trenton	1.9	20.2
Gibraltar	0	7.4	Melvindale	8.3	16.0	Van Buren Twp.	5.6	15.9
Grosse Ile	10.2	16.9	Northville	12.3	15.1	Wayne	1.6	13.0
Grosse Pte.	7.1	20.8	Northville Twp.	11.6	15.5	Westland	0.3	15.5
Grosse Pte. Farms	7.1	33.5	Plymouth	17.6	17.2	Woodhaven	6.8	14.6
						Wyandotte	3.4	14.0
* 2006 figures								

Reuse/Recycling/Disposal

Arts & Scraps, 16135 Harper, Detroit 313-640-4411
Keith Bovenchen School, 12345 Frazho, Warren 586-757-7880
Scrap Box, 581 State Circle, Ann Arbor 734-994-4420

Helium Tanks

Larry's Welding Supply, 514 Hilton, Ferndale 248-548-0440
will accept empty helium tanks to swap. Call first!



Inkjet & Laser Cartridges

All US Post Offices provide prepaid mailing envelopes for used inkjet cartridges. The cartridges are sent for recycling. Check your local post office for details.

Toxic chemicals in toner cartridges can pose health and environmental problems if disposed of in a solid waste landfill. The following businesses offer toner cartridge recycling services.

All-Tech Business Products, 260 Airport Industrial Dr., Ypsilanti 734-482-0640

Laser Cartridge Reconditioning, 1081 Nash, Ypsilanti 734-482-1945

Laser Solutions, 715 W. Ellsworth Rd., Ann Arbor 734-662-6667

Nationwide Laser Technologies, Farmington Hills 248-488-0155

Office Depot, Check phonebook for stores in your area.

Recycle Ann Arbor, 2420 S. Industrial, Ann Arbor 734-662-6288

Staples, Check phonebook for stores in your area.

Landfills

Wayne County has four Type II or Municipal Solid Waste landfills. Wayne County Department of Environment's Land Resource Management Division inspects them once per week to assure that they meet County and State standards. Additionally, there is a landfill available in Washtenaw County. These facilities accept waste from residents for a fee. Please call first if you have questions.

Carleton Farms, 28800 Clark Rd., Sumpter Twp. 734-654-3615

Riverview Land Preserve, 20455 Grange, Riverview 734-281-4263

Sauk Trail Hills, 5011 S. Lilley Rd., Canton Twp. 734-397-2791

Veolia Center, 10690 Six Mile, Salem Twp. 248-349-7230

Woodland Meadows, 5900 Hannan Rd., Van Buren Twp. 734-326-0993

Medical Waste/Pharmaceuticals

Sharps: The Wayne County DOE encourages safe disposal of sharps. Sharps include syringes, needles, and lancets. You can help prevent injury, illness, and pollution by following some simple steps when you dispose of the sharp objects and contaminated materials you use in administering health care in your home. Place needles, syringes, lancets, and other sharp



Reuse/Recycling/Disposal

objects in a hard-plastic or metal container with a screw-on or tightly secured lid. Many containers found in the household, such as liquid laundry detergent bottles or metal coffee cans, will do, or you may purchase containers specifically designed for the disposal of medical waste sharps. To dispose, you may choose one of the following methods: 1.) Place them in a proper sharps container and bring to a local Household Hazardous Waste Collection; 2.) Reinforce the lid with heavy-duty tape, label "Not Recyclable" and place container in your regular trash; 3.) Contact a Medical Waste Disposal Service. A list is available at www.michigan.gov/deqwaste (select "Medical Waste"). **Do not put sharp objects in any container you plan to recycle or return to a store, and do not use glass or clear plastic containers.** Finally, make sure that you keep all containers with sharp objects out of the reach of children and pets. We also recommend that soiled bandages, disposable sheets, and medical gloves be placed in securely fastened plastic bags.

Medical Equipment: Some types of medical supplies can be reused. These include walkers, canes, wheel chairs, and crutches. The organizations listed below accept medical supplies for redistribution.

American Cancer Society 800-227-2345

Medical Loan Closet-Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Ypsilanti

734-482-7121, *Provides a loan service for reusable medical equipment. Will accept used items such as wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, and shower chairs.*

Prescription Drugs: The new Federal prescription drug disposal guidelines are designed to reduce the diversion of prescription drugs, while also protecting the environment. These guidelines urge Americans to:

- **DO NOT FLUSH!**
- Take unused, unneeded, or expired prescription drugs out of their original containers;
- Mix the prescription drugs with an undesirable substance, like used coffee grounds, cat litter, or old latex paint and put them in impermeable, non-descript containers, such as empty cans or sealable bags, further ensuring that the drugs are not diverted or accidentally ingested by children or pets;
- Throw these containers in the trash;
- Contact your local pharmacy to see if they have a take-back program in place for unused, unneeded, or expired prescription drugs.

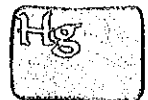
Mercury

Please see page 7 for specific information on the dangers of mercury in your home. The following locations will accept mercury-containing items for recycling. Always call first.

Battery Solutions, 38680 Michigan Ave., Wayne 734-467-9110

Chemical Analytics, 29959 Beverly Rd., Romulus 734-326-9400

Environmental Quality, 2000 E. Ferry, Detroit 313-923-2240



Reuse/Recycling/Disposal

Video Tapes

Video tapes can be reused or recycled.

Arts & Scraps, 16135 Harper, Detroit 313-640-4411, *Accepts video tapes for use in creative art projects for area students.*

EcoMedia, 5429 E. LaPalma Ave., Anaheim Hills, CA 92807
800-959-5156 x6882, *Audio and video tapes accepted for a fee.*

Recycle Ann Arbor, 2420 S. Industrial, Ann Arbor 734-662-6288

Yard Clippings

As of March 1995, yard clippings have been banned for disposal in landfills in Michigan. "**Yard Clippings**" means leaves, grass clippings, vegetable or other garden debris, shrubbery, or brush or tree trimmings, less than 4 feet in length and 2 inches in diameter, that can be converted to compost humus. Yard clippings do not include stumps, agricultural wastes, animal waste, roots, sewage sludge, or garbage.

The composting, or natural breakdown, of yard clippings is recommended. Most communities in Wayne County have curbside collection of yard clippings, which are then taken to area compost facilities. Detroit picks up yard waste from residents monthly. To find out your pickup day in Detroit, call 313-224-2215. For information regarding programs in your communities, contact your city or township DPW offices.



Following is a list of area compost facilities and some information on how to compost in your own backyard!

WAYNE COUNTY

Carleton Farms—Republic Waste Services, 28800 Clark Road, Sumpter Township, 734-654-3615

Taylor Compost—City of Taylor, 16300 Racho Road, Taylor, 734-284-7197

Northville Compost Yard—City of Northville, 650 Doheny, Northville, 248-349-1300

MONROE COUNTY

Jack's Lawn Service, Inc.—Jack Sturn, 5550 W. Dunbar, Monroe

Regulated Resource Recovery—Nick Straub, 200 Matlin Road, Carleton (Ash Township)

MACOMB COUNTY

King of the Winds—Dolores Michaels, 21600 Quinn Road, Clinton Township

Pine Tree Acres—Waste Management, 36600 29 Mile Road, Lenox Township

OAKLAND COUNTY

Eagle Valley Transfer—Waste Management, Silverbell Road, Orion Township

Wright Way Clean-Up, 1586 Valley Dr., Highland



ST. CLAIR COUNTY

Indian Summer Recycling—Bob Brooks & Fred Thompson, 5877 Bethuy Rd., Casco

WASHTENAW COUNTY

Veolia Center—10599 W. Five Mile Road, Salem Twp., 248-349-7230

HOME COMPOSTING



What Should be Composted?

Anything organic or once alive will compost. Whether a specific organic should be composted depends on whether you are able and willing to control the potential nuisances, expend the necessary effort or have enough materials. A commercial composting toilet is available, for example, but the composting of human manure is not for everyone! At the other end of the spectrum are the easiest compostables, yard clippings and various food wastes.

In order to compost effectively, it is useful to know and understand the composting recipe listed below:

Generic Composting Recipe

- Mix 1 part Green, 2 parts Brown
- Add Soil (several shovels full; optional)
- Add Water (to make it as wet as a wrung-out sponge)
- Mix

Carbon/ Brown

Autumn Leaves
Straw
Wood Chips
Newspaper



Nitrogen/ Green

Vegetable Scraps
Coffee Grounds
Grass Clippings
Manure



NOTE



There are also some materials that should be avoided: meat or animal products, oils or food cooked with oils, dog or cat feces, glossy paper, charcoal ashes, diseased plants, invasive weeds and seeds, and plants recently treated with pesticides or long-lived chemicals like arsenic.

7 Steps To Better Composting

1. Pick a well-drained spot in your yard to set up compost bin or pile.
2. Gather as much of a variety of compostable ingredients as you can.
3. Chop or grind larger compost ingredients. This will speed up the decomposition process.
4. Build your compost pile in layers.
5. Bury food scraps in the center of the pile so that the neighborhood wildlife aren't tempted to dig in.
6. Turn the pile with a garden fork a couple of times a month (or more frequently if you like) and add water when needed. It takes as little as two weeks or as long as several months to "cook." The compost will be ready when it is dark brown, crumbly and earthy-smelling.
7. Enjoy the fruits of your labor by adding compost to your lawn and/or garden.

Once you have finished compost:

- Use finished compost from the bottom of the bin or pile;
- Cultivate the soil around the plants you wish to enrich with compost;
- Spread the compost in 1-3 inch thick layers around the plants or tree.

Note: Be careful not to allow compost to touch plants or tree bark directly; this may cause harm to plants through decomposition.

When To Compost

Since food waste is generated year-round and yard waste is seasonal, there may be variations in the composting system throughout the year.

- **Spring & Summer:** Leaves (saved from the fall) can be mixed with grass clippings and other yard waste.
- **Fall:** Compost leaves and kitchen scraps, mulch or plant cover crops.
- **Winter:** Indoor vermi-composting and garbage-can composting are useful this time of year. Garbage-can composting uses an actual garbage can for a compost bin. Vermi-composting means using earth worms to decompose organic matter.

Uses For Compost

Compost can be used for a variety of applications. Most often people use it to prepare a plant bed for the following growing season, amend the soil of an established garden, make compost tea to use on houseplants, or rake into the lawn to add nutrients back to the soil.

When compost goes rotten—what's the problem?

Foul Odor: The reason could be that there is not enough air, or too much moisture in the pile. You can solve this problem by turning the pile and adding dry material if the pile is too wet.

Warm and damp only in the middle: The reason could be that the pile is too small. Solve this problem by adding more materials.

Pile is damp but won't heat up: The reason for this might be lack of nitrogen or not enough air. To solve this problem, add grass clippings or other nitrogen sources and turn the pile.



Become a Master Composter and learn the benefits of Composting, Yard Waste Reduction, and Healthy Lawn and Gardening.

The Wayne County DOE periodically offers a Master Composter Course and/or composting workshops. For information on registering for these, contact the Wayne County Resource Recovery Coordinator at 734-326-3936.

Requirements For Becoming a Master Composter

- Attend Five Classes
- Successfully complete a Final Exam
- Complete 10 Hours of public outreach volunteer work (after completing the course)
- Have Fun!



Healthy Lawn Care Tips

Stormwater runoff from home lawns contributes to the pollution of the area rivers and lakes. Problems are created when lawns are “overfed” with too much fertilizer and herbicide, when watering is excessive, and when grass is maintained on steep slopes or near the water’s edge. Maintain a green, river-safe lawn by following the healthy lawn practices outlined below.

Mow Grass High

Leave 3 inches on the grass blade after cutting. Tall grass promotes root growth and shades out weeds. Let short clips fall back into the lawn, recycling nitrogen in a natural fashion.



Select Earth-Friendly Fertilizers

Select slow-release fertilizers which gradually contribute nitrogen to the grass roots. Slow-release fertilizers protect lakes and streams, promote and protect steady grass growth, protect microbial life in the soil, and do not burn grass. The Healthy Lawn and Garden Technical Advisory Committee for Wayne and Oakland Counties recommends slow-release fertilizers with 50% or more of the nitrogen in slow-release form. For additional water quality protections, select a fertilizer with no (or very low) phosphorus.

Don’t guess...Soil Test

A soil test indicates nutrient levels already in the soil—a first step in determining how much and what type of fertilizer is needed for the plants you are trying to grow. You may purchase the MSU soil nutrient tests through Wayne County MSU Extension at 313-833-3412.

Nitrogen quantities recommended in the soil test can be reduced by 25% or more if the lawn is in partial shade, if soils already have 5% or more organic matter content, and/or if clippings are left on the lawn.

Sweep Up Fertilizer From Paved Surfaces

Fertilizer left on sidewalks and driveways can easily wash into storm drains, rivers, and lakes. If possible, use a drop spreader, not a rotary spreader. Sweep fertilizer from sidewalks back onto the lawn.

Measure Your Lawn Before Purchasing Fertilizer

Measure the lawn area to be covered then purchase only what you need. Remember, different types of grasses need different amounts of nitrogen to keep them healthy. Over the growing season, Kentucky bluegrass typically requires 4 or more pounds of nitrogen (N) per 1000 square feet, while fescues, ryegrasses, and grass mixtures require less nitrogen.



Leave A “No-Fertilizer” Zone Near Lakes And Rivers

Water quality experts in Michigan and other Midwest states recommend a “no fertilizer” riparian buffer zone with a width of 25 feet or more. Instead of lawn grass, consider native wildflowers, grasses, sedges, and/or shrubs which trap soil and other pollutants.

Avoid Weed-and-Feed Combination Products

Combination fertilizer and weed control products often add unnecessary herbicides to the landscape. A better approach is to identify the weed of concern and selectively spot treat the weed(s). Many people find that a thick, healthy lawn combined with a modest amount of hand weeding, completely eliminates the need for herbicide.

Use Sifted Compost as a Top Dressing

Spread 1/2 inch of compost over an established lawn. Rake compost into the lawn, leaving a portion of the grass blade exposed to sunlight and air. Compost adds microorganisms, nutrients, and organic matter to help build soil.

Do Not Fertilize Before May

Lawns usually do not need fertilizer in April, especially if they have been fertilized the previous fall. Fertilizer in the early spring stimulates rapid, lush growth and increases dangers from disease and pests.

Look for the Earth-Friendly Fertilizer sticker at participating retailers. You can find a list of the retailers at www.rougeiver.com



Examples of Earth-Friendly Fertilizers

With 50% or more of nitrogen in slow-release form.

Lesco Professional Turf 32-0-10

Safer Lawn Restorer 10-2-6

Safer Natural Turf 8-1-1

Scotts Organic Choice Lawn Food 11-2-2

Soil Science 5-0-7

Sustain (Lesco product) 18-1-8

Turf Nurture 15-2-7

Clean Green Soy Fertilizer 7-0-0

Corn Gluten pellets 9-0-0

Fertrell Lawn Fertilizer 9-1-4 or 8-1-8

Ringer Lawn Restore 10-2-6

River Friendly Practices... Seven Simple Steps to Clean Water



1. Help keep pollution out of storm drains

Storm drains lead to our lakes and streams. So, any oil, pet waste, leaves, or dirty water from washing your car that enters a storm drain gets into our lakes and streams. With almost 5 million people living in Southeast Michigan, we all need to be aware of what goes in our storm drains.

Remember, only rain in the drain!

2. Fertilize sparingly and carefully

Storm drains in our streets and yards empty into our lakes and streams. So, when we fertilize our lawn we could also be fertilizing our lakes and streams. While fertilizer is good for our lawn, it's bad for our water. Fertilizer in our lakes and streams causes algae to grow. Algae can form large blooms and use oxygen that fish need to survive. With 1.5 million homes in Southeast Michigan, all of us need to be aware of the cumulative effects of our lawn care practices.

What can you do? Use fertilizer low in phosphorus, select a slow-release fertilizer where at least half of the nitrogen is "water insoluble" (check the ingredients on the label), keep fertilizer away from lakes, streams, and storm drains, and sweep excess fertilizer back onto your lawn.

3. Carefully store and dispose of household cleaners, chemicals, and oil

Antifreeze, household cleaners, gasoline, pesticides, oil paints, solvents, and motor oil are just some of the common household products that enter our storm drains. You can help keep these out of our lakes and streams...instead of putting these items in the trash, down the storm drain, or on the ground, take them to a local hazardous waste center or collection day.



4. Clean up after your pet

Most of us pick up after our pets to be a good neighbor and keep our yard clean. But there's another important reason. Pet waste contains bacteria that is harmful to us and our water. Leaving it on the sidewalk or lawn means harmful bacteria will be transported into the storm drains and then into our lakes and streams. So what can you do to help? Simple. Whether on a walk or in your yard, dispose of your pet's waste promptly in the toilet or trash.

5. Practice good car care

Did you know that just four quarts of oil from your car's engine can form an eight-acre oil slick if spilled or dumped down a storm drain? There are over 4 million cars in Southeast Michigan, so even small leaks matter.

Keep your car tuned and fix leaks promptly. Not only will this make your car run better and last longer, it will be good for our lakes, streams, and air. When washing your car, keep the polluted water from going into the street and storm drain. **Consider taking your car to the car wash or washing your car on the grass.** Your lawn will gladly soak up the excess water.



6. Choose earth-friendly landscaping



When landscaping your yard you can protect your kids, pets, and the environment from harm. Use pesticides sparingly. Put mulch around trees and plants. Water your lawn only when it needs it (1-2 times a week is usually sufficient) and choose plants native to Michigan. Once established, these plants tolerate dry weather and resist disease.

7. Save water

Did you know that individually we use about 77 gallons of water each day? When we over-water our lawns, it can easily carry pollution to the storm drains and to our lakes and streams.

Consider using a broom instead of a hose to clean sidewalks and driveways. Direct hoses and sprinklers on the lawn, not on the driveway. Water when necessary instead of on a fixed schedule. Remember, saving water also saves you money.



We might not be able to see the lake or stream from our window, but it's there. It might be a small stream or ditch or even the storm drain in the street. All of these lead to our lakes and streams. So, what we do at home affects our rivers and lakes!

Our Water. Our Future.



It's A No Drainer!

Please bring your expired and unused medication to the following site for proper disposal. CVS pharmacists will be available to review your current medications for compatibility.

**Thursday, September 18, 2008
1:00-3:00p.m.**

**at
UAW Region 1-A
9650 Telegraph Rd.
Taylor, MI**



Following is a list of accepted and not accepted products for disposal:

ACCEPTED

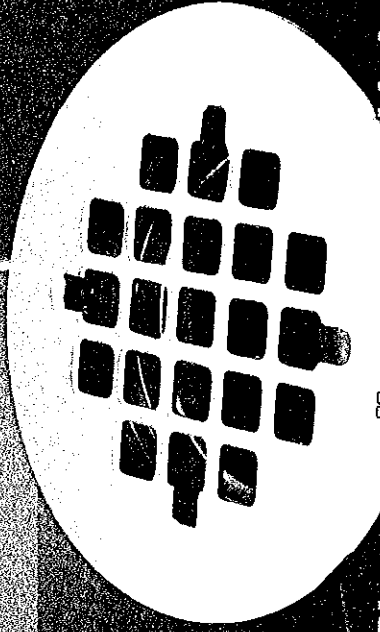
Non-Controlled Prescription
(in original container)
Over-the-Counter Medicines
Stamps/needles (in puncture-proof container)

NOT ACCEPTED

Controlled Substances
*(Example: Vicodin, Percocet,
Tylenol-3, Baracet)*

We will also accept mercury thermometers and provide a new digital thermometer in exchange.

CVS
pharmacy



Refreshments and complimentary CVS Pharmacy items are provided.

SAFE DISPOSAL IS IMPORTANT

For further information, Call (313) 224-0340