

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS



The Department of Public Works (DPW) oversees the trash collection services for single-family residences. We hope you will find the following information useful. If you have any questions, you may reach us from 7:00 am until 5:00 pm at 248.624.0141, Monday-Thursday or feel free to visit us at 2041 Charms Road.

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENCES REFUSE COLLECTION

The City of Wixom contracts with Waste Management for the collection of municipal refuse. The City of Wixom's collection day is Wednesday. **All items for trash collection must be placed at the curb by 7:00 am the day of collection; however, not earlier than 4:00 pm the day before scheduled collection. Empty receptacles must be removed from curb by noon the day after pick-up.**

Collection services include: trash, recycling, yard waste (compost) and bulk items. Please place containers, bags and bundles at the curb or at the edge of the street in front of your home.

In accordance with our contract with Waste Management, refuse material must be placed in approved containers, and/ or bundles as applicable.

MIXED WASTE: Mixed Waste is a mixture of garbage and rubbish (not yard waste or recyclables). Mixed waste can be placed at the curb in any of the following containers:

Metal or Plastic Containers	Must be between 10 to 35 gallons in capacity. Total weight of containers and contents must <u>NOT</u> exceed 60 pounds. Please do not fill containers above the rims.
Plastic Bags	Must be between 10 to 35 gallons in capacity. Total weight of bag and contents must <u>NOT</u> exceed 40 pounds. Cardboard boxes are <u>NOT</u> acceptable containers.

BULK ITEMS: Bulk items such as furniture, refrigerators (with the doors removed), stoves, water heaters, etc. will be picked up on collection day if they are placed at the curb by 7:00 am. You do not need to call in advance for bulk pick up.

CARPETING/ RUGS: Old carpets and rugs must be free of all nails or staples and securely tied in bales no more than 2 feet high and 4 feet long.

LATEX PAINT: Latex paint can be thrown with the trash once it has been solidified. In order to dry out latex paint, put in a well-ventilated area, open the can and add kitty litter or commercially available hardener. The paint will solidify in a few days. Once it is completely solid, place the can of dry paint either into a plastic garbage bag or out on the curb with the lid off on your regular trash day.

COMPOSTABLES/ YARD WASTE: Compost includes grass, weeds, leaves, shrub and plant clippings, plant materials, twigs and small limbs. **Compost service will be provided each year from the beginning of April until the end of November.** Compost can be placed at the curb in any of the following containers:

Metal or Plastic Containers with Yard Waste Sticker	Must be between 10 to 35 gallons in capacity with a yard waste sticker adhered to it. Total weight of containers and contents must <u>NOT</u> exceed 60 pounds. Please do not fill containers above the rims. Yard waste stickers are provided by the City at no charge at the DPW or City Hall.
Brown Compost Bags	Total weight of bag and contents must <u>NOT</u> exceed 40 pounds. Cardboard boxes and/ or plastic bags are <u>NOT</u> acceptable containers. Please do not place stickers on brown compost bags.
Bundles	Bundles of small branches must be tied and not exceed 4 feet in length, 6 inches in diameter and 60 pounds in weight.

CONSTRUCTION DEBRIS, ETC.: Small quantities of building debris resulting from repair or remodeling personally done by the home owner can be set out at the curb on regular trash day for pickup. Bundle and tie. Bundles should weigh no more than 60 pounds and be no longer than 4 feet or place in heavy-duty contractor bags, not to exceed 60 pounds in weight. If large construction job, must hire a private dumpster at owner's expense.

HOLIDAY COLLECTION: If the following holidays fall on a Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday there will be a one-day delay for refuse collection: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day and Christmas Day.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE: Household hazardous waste, such as oil based paint, paint thinner, pesticides, herbicides, florescent light bulbs, etc. are not collected at the curbside. Instead, household hazardous waste will be collected at a location and time to be announced on the City's website (www.wixomgov.org). Or you may call the DPW to find out the exact date, time and location.

New Resident Recycling Information ---

RRRASOC member communities: Farmington, Farmington Hills, Milford, Milford Township, Novi, South Lyon, Southfield, Walled Lake, Wixom

Resource Recovery & Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland County (RRRASOC)

20000 W. Eight Mile Road | Southfield 48075 | 248-208-2270 | rrrasoc.org



Here's What You Will Find in This Packet:

Recycling Guidelines – Recycle More. Recycle Right. It Matters.

Much of our waste is a resource and can be used to create new products instead of being lost in a landfill. **For more information on what and how to recycle and a list of acceptable materials, refer to RRRASOC's Curbside or Drop-Off Recycling Guidelines.**



Yard Waste – Do the Rot Thing. In 1995, Michigan banned yard waste from being disposed in landfills because it's a better use of grass clippings, leaves and yard debris to be composted back into a nutrient rich soil enhancer. **For information on backyard composting and grass cycling, refer to RRRASOC's Healthy Lawn and Garden flyer.**

Got Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)? Warning words such as *Poison, Toxic, Corrosive, Flammable, Combustible, Danger, Caution, Warning, Harmful* listed on common household products alerts you that these items can be extremely harmful to our health and environment and need to be disposed through special HHW collections. **Refer to RRRASOC's Household Hazardous Waste flyer for acceptable materials and collection event guidelines.**

Who is RRRASOC?

The Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland County is an intergovernmental, municipal solid waste authority created in 1989. We are often referred to as **Recycling Authority** for short or by the acronym **RRRASOC**.



Our purpose is to establish and operate solid waste management projects that focus on intergovernmental cooperation and economies of scale, while being environmentally responsible and fiscally sound.

Member communities include Farmington, Farmington Hills, Milford, Milford Township, Novi, South Lyon, Southfield, Walled Lake, and Wixom.

RRRASOC helps its member communities provide cost-effective, environmentally responsible and convenient waste and recycling programs, including recycling drop-off centers, household hazardous waste collection events and curbside pick-up collection.

Stay Informed:

What & How to Recycle

- 🔄 Search the *recycling directory* at RRRASOC.org
- 🔄 Download "Recycling Authority" mobile app
- 🔄 Follow "Recycling Authority" on Facebook
- 🔄 Sign up for "Recycling Authority" monthly e-newsletter at rrrasoc.org
- 🔄 Call RRRASOC: 248-208-2270

Keep Plastic Bags Out!

We need your help! Plastic bags are **NOT** accepted for recycling. Please keep **ALL** plastic bags out of your recycling bin or cart. Here's why: The recycling sorting process is high tech and automated. Plastic bags wrap around the moving gears and parts, causing jams that require shutting down the system and hours of manual removal of the bags each day.



Beyond the Bin: About the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF)

The RRRASOC Materials Recovery Facility (or MRF) is located at the northeast corner of Eight Mile and Evergreen Roads in Southfield. It was originally built in 1994 on the site of a vacant manufacturing facility, symbolizing RRRASOC's commitment to "recycling" the urban infrastructure.

In partnership with our current private operating contractor, ReCommunity Detroit, the RRRASOC facility is a state-of-the-art single stream processing system that sorts, separates and bales recyclables collected from our nine member communities as well as regionally from other communities. Once baled, the recyclable commodities are sold and shipped locally, nationally and globally and are used as resources to make new products.

The MRF can process up to 20 tons of recyclable material per hour from residential curbside recycling programs, commercial and industrial businesses and items collected from RRRASOC's two recycling drop-off sites.



Contacting Your Community

Your Community	Contact Number	Who Is Your Waste Hauler?
Farmington	248-473-7250 (DPW)	Waste Management
Farmington Hills	248-871-2530 (DPS)	Waste Management
Milford	248-685-3055 (DPS)	Rizzo Environmental Services
Milford Township	248-685-8731 (Township Offices)	Rizzo Environmental Services
Novi*	866-797-9018 (Waste Management)	Waste Management (effective 7/1/16)
South Lyon	248-437-6914 (DPW)	Duncan Disposal
Southfield	248-796-4860 (DPW)	Rizzo Environmental Services (effective 7/1/16)
Walled Lake	248-624-4849 (DPW)	Duncan Disposal
Wixom	248-624-0141 (DPW)	Waste Management

- Garbage and recycling are collected weekly and should be set out on your designated collection day by 7:00 a.m.
- Yard waste is collected weekly spring through fall.
- Direct questions about garbage, recycling and yard waste collection to your community.
- *Novi residents call Waste Management at 866-797-9018.*

Where to Recycle

Curbside recycling collection is provided weekly to all single family households in RRRASOC's nine member communities.

Two recycling drop-off sites are also available in Novi and Southfield for those residents without curbside recycling collection.

Contact your Community Department of Public Works for information on recycling collection service in your area.

For more information on what and how to recycle and a list of acceptable materials, refer to RRRASOC's Curbside or Drop-Off Recycling Guidelines.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events

Multiple HHW collection events are held in the spring and fall each year for residents of RRRASOC member communities. Check the rrrasoc.org website for the complete event schedule.



RRRASOC CURBSIDE RECYCLING GUIDELINES

For RRRASOC Member Communities: Farmington, Farmington Hills, Milford, Milford Township, Novi, South Lyon, Southfield, Walled Lake, Wixom



Paper Drink Cartons



File folders, office paper & gift wrapping paper

#1-#2 and #4-#7 Plastic containers (NO Foam/Styrofoam)



Aluminum & Metal Cans

Newspapers, Magazines, Brochures & Inserts



Paperboard boxes (cereal, pasta, & tissue)

Corrugated cardboard & Paper bags



Household scrap metal

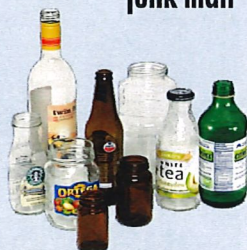
YES

- Clean garden plastics
- Clean pizza boxes
- Flatten cardboard boxes
- Empty and rinse containers
- Leave caps on plastic bottles
- OK to leave staples, clips, labels, stamps, spiral bindings and metal fasteners on paper products



Phonebooks

Greeting cards, regular & junk mail



Glass bottles & jars (all colors)



Bulky Rigid Plastic (buckets, chairs, toys)

NO

- **Plastic Bags**
- Foam containers or products (Styrofoam)
- Wire hangers
- Window panes, mirrors, ceramics & Pyrex dishware
- Organic material and food waste
- Electronic waste (batteries, cell phones, computers, etc.)
- Paint, pesticides, oil & cleaners
- Waxed cardboard
- Needles or syringes
- Hazardous waste



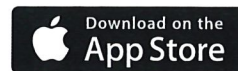
R·R·R·A·S·O·C

20000 W. Eight Mile Rd.
Southfield, MI 48075

NO MATTER IF IT'S A LITTLE OR A LOT, RECYCLE RIGHT USING A BIN OR A CART.

WONDERING IF SOMETHING CAN BE RECYCLED?

Download the "Recycling Authority" mobile app for iPhone and Android





STAY INFORMED

About Recycling, Garbage, Yard Waste and Household Hazardous Waste

SIGN UP FOR RRRASOC'S MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER



ON THE WEBSITE: RRRASOC.ORG



EMAIL: EDUCATION@RRRASOC.ORG

For Residents of RRRASOC Member Communities

**Farmington • Farmington Hills • Milford • Milford Township • Novi
South Lyon • Southfield • Walled Lake • Wixom**

When you sign up for our e-newsletter, you are granting RRRASOC permission to email you.

You can revoke permission to mail to your email address at any time using the SafeUnsubscribe® link, found at the bottom of every email.

We take your privacy seriously and do not share or use your email for any other purpose.





Emails are serviced by Constant Contact.

RRRASOC - Recycling Authority
20000 West Eight Mile Road, Southfield, MI 48075
www.rrrasoc.org.



RRRASOC SAFE BATTERY DISPOSAL INFO

For RRRASOC Member Communities: Farmington, Farmington Hills, Milford, Milford Township, Novi, South Lyon, Southfield, Walled Lake, Wixom

	BATTERY TYPE	PROPER DISPOSAL
	Rechargeable Nickel Cadmium (Ni-Cd or Ni-Cad), Nickel Metal Oxy-Hydride (Ni-MH), Lithium Ion (Li-Ion), Nickel Zinc (Ni-Zn)	Rechargeable batteries come in many sizes and forms from AAA to D sizes, cell phone, camera, laptop batteries. Recycling Options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take rechargeable batteries to one of the free drop-off locations listed on Call2Recycle.org. Take to a local Best Buy or Batteries Plus Bulbs retailers for recycling. Bring to a RRRASOC Household Hazardous Waste event. <i>Rechargeable batteries contain heavy metals such as nickel, cadmium, or lithium and cannot be safely placed in municipal landfills.</i>
	Alkaline (Non-rechargeable, Dry Cell)	Recycling Options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take alkaline batteries to one of the free drop-off locations listed on Call2Recycle.org. Bring to a RRRASOC Household Hazardous Waste event. <i>While not the ideal option, used alkaline (non-rechargeable) batteries may be placed in trash to be landfilled. Alkaline batteries no longer contain toxic materials such as mercury as mercury was banned by federal law in 1996.</i>
	Lead-Acid Batteries (Automotive, Marine, Deep Cycle, etc.)	Recycling Options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retailers are required to accept a used lead-acid battery with the purchase of a new one. Battery core charges apply. Take to a Batteries Plus Bulbs retailer for recycling. Bring to a RRRASOC Household Hazardous Waste event. <i>Lead-acid batteries contain toxic substances such as lead and sulfuric acid which cannot be safely placed in municipal landfills. Once recycled, much of the content is reused in new batteries.</i>
	Lithium Single Use & Button Cell Batteries (Labeled Lithium or Li) *Not to be confused with rechargeable Lithium-Ion (Li-Ion)	Recycling Options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take lithium single use and button cell batteries to one of the free drop-off locations listed on Call2Recycle.org. Bring to a RRRASOC Household Hazardous Waste event. <i>These batteries contain small amounts of toxic heavy metals and should be recycled, when it is possible.</i>



NOT SURE WHAT TO DO WITH STUFF?

Use RRRASOC's online searchable Recycling Directory at rrrasoc.org for information and tips on recycling, composting, reuse or disposal options. Download the free mobile smartphone app from the App Store or Google Play. Search for "Recycling Authority".









www.RRRASOC.org

facebook.com/rrrasoc

248.208.2270

RRRASOC SAFE LIGHT BULB DISPOSAL INFO

For RRRASOC Member Communities: Farmington, Farmington Hills, Milford, Milford Township, Novi, South Lyon, Southfield, Walled Lake, Wixom

	BULB TYPE	PROPER DISPOSAL
	Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFL)	CFLs contain mercury and should be disposed/recycled properly. Recycling Options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take to Batteries Plus Bulbs, Home Depot or Lowes. Bring to a RRRASOC Household Hazardous Waste event. <i>Recycling allows the reuse of the glass, metals and other materials that make up fluorescent lights. Virtually all components of a fluorescent bulb can be recycled.</i>
	Fluorescent Tubes	Fluorescent tubes contain mercury and should be disposed/recycled properly. Recycling Options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take to Batteries Plus Bulbs, Home Depot or Lowes. Bring to a RRRASOC Household Hazardous Waste event. <i>Recycling CFLs and other fluorescent bulbs allows the reuse of the glass, metals and other materials that make up fluorescent lights. Virtually all components of a fluorescent bulb can be recycled.</i>
	Halogen	Halogen bulbs can be disposed with regular household trash. <i>A halogen light bulb uses a tungsten filament just like an incandescent light bulb but also contains halogen gas which an incandescent bulb does not.</i>
	High Intensity Discharge (HID) Mercury Vapor, Metal Halide, High Pressure Sodium	High Intensity Discharge bulbs contain mercury and should be disposed/recycled properly. Recycling Options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take to Batteries Plus Bulbs. Bring to a RRRASOC Household Hazardous Waste event.
	Incandescent	Can be disposed with regular household garbage.
	LED	Can be disposed with regular household garbage. <i>LEDs DO NOT contain dangerous chemicals.</i>



NOT SURE WHAT TO DO WITH STUFF?

Use RRRASOC's online searchable Recycling Directory at rrrasoc.org for information and tips on recycling, composting, reuse or disposal options. Download the free mobile smartphone app from the App Store or Google Play. Search for "Recycling Authority".



www.RRRASOC.org

facebook.com/rrrasoc

248.208.2270

Household Paint Disposal Guide

Tips for Handling Unwanted Paint

Paint and related products such as paint thinners and solvents have different disposal methods based on the chemical formula of the product. Proper handling and disposal protects human health and the environment.



LATEX PAINT

- Latex paint is also referred to as water-based, acrylic, or emulsion paint. It is comprised mostly of water and is **not** considered a hazardous waste. It can be safely disposed of in your household trash as long as it is **solidified first**.
- To determine if your paint is latex, look at the label and find the 'Cleanup Instructions'. For latex paint, you will be instructed to clean your brushes with 'detergent and water' or 'soap and water'. If you are instructed to use a solvent, like mineral spirits, to clean your brushes or if the words 'alkyd' or 'combustible' are on the label, the paint is not latex based and should be disposed through RRRASOC's household hazardous waste collection events. Check the RRRASOC.org website for event schedule or ask for the RRRASOC Household Hazardous Waste flyer.
- Latex paint is not considered hazardous therefore; it is **not accepted** at any of RRRASOC's household hazardous waste events.

HOW TO SOLIDIFY LATEX (WATER-BASED) PAINT

- **Air dry.** Remove the lid and allow the liquid to evaporate. This works well for small quantities of paint (an inch or two in the bottom of the can), and can take several days.
- **Use a drying agent.** Mix an equal amount of an absorbent material into the can and allow the paint to dry. Use cat litter, sawdust, plaster of Paris, Oil-dri, or "waste paint hardeners" found at home improvement centers as absorbent material. The paint could dry quickly, depending on how much drying agent you include in the can.
- **Pour thin layers** (about 1" of paint) into a cardboard box lined with plastic. Allow the paint to dry one layer at a time until all paint has hardened. Once the paint is thoroughly dry, place it in a regular trash bag and put it out for trash collection.

Once the paint is thoroughly dry, place it in a regular trash bag and put it out for trash collection.

LATEX PAINT DISPOSAL

**DRY IT UP
THROW IT OUT**

Water-base paint is not hazardous and should be disposed of in the trash.



PROTECT OUR COMMUNITY

DO NOT

dump the paint on the ground or down storm drains where it will travel directly to surface and/or ground water.

DO NOT

pour paint down the drain. Keep brush and paint tool washing to a minimum by wiping off excess paint with a disposal rag before clean up.

DO NOT

throw liquid paint in the regular trash. It is illegal and leaking paint spills out of waste collection vehicles onto city streets making an unsightly mess that is very difficult to clean up.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Call RRRASOC/Recycling Authority at 248-208-2270

Visit rrrasoc.org

Follow RRRASOC on Facebook (Recycling Authority)

Download the RRRASOC mobile app (Recycling Authority)

Sign up for a monthly electronic newsletter at RRRASOC.org

Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland County

contact us at 20000 W. Eight Mile Rd. Southfield, MI 48075 online at www.RRRASOC.org or call 248.208.2270

Household Paint Disposal Guide

Tips for Handling Unwanted Paint

Paint and related products such as paint thinners and solvents have different disposal methods based on the chemical formula of the product. Proper handling and disposal protects human health and the environment.



R·R·R·A·S·O·C

Why Does Proper Disposal of Paint Matter?

Disposing of unwanted paints, solvents and thinners down sinks and drains, onto the ground or into the trash, can overwhelm and damage sewage systems, destroy septic tanks and damage the protective liners of landfills. These items can also contaminate surface and groundwater, which we depend on for drinking water and enjoy for recreation. Follow the paint disposal tips and guidelines described in this leaflet to ease threats to human health and the environment.

3R's of Paint - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

REDUCE

Reduce the amount of leftover paint from your project.

- Measure the space and ask your paint dealer, or use an online paint calculator, to help you determine the correct amount of paint for the project.
- If some paint remains, apply additional coats to use it completely.
- Not sure if you'll like a color? Use paint swatches first or purchase a sample size.

REUSE

Leftover paint has a shelf life of 10-15 years when stored properly.

- To keep paint from drying up, seal the paint can properly. Remove any paint from the grooves of the paint can and wipe it clean with a rag. Use a rubber mallet to tap the lid down securely. Don't have a mallet? Cover the can with a piece of wood and then hammer the lid closed.
- Store paint in a cool, dark location like a basement. Store cans on a shelf to keep the bottoms of the cans from rusting due to the moisture in the floor. No basement? A cabinet or closet in your house away from extreme hot or cold temperatures will keep your paint useable.

Use leftover paint for other projects or give it away.

- If you have useful quantities of leftover paint, ask friends, neighbors or relatives if they can use it.
- Community centers, animal shelters, housing authorities, places of worship, artists and theater groups may welcome a donation of useable paint. Useable paint has not gone through a freeze-thaw cycle and is free of particulates. Call ahead to make sure that your donation will be accepted.
- Be creative with paint left overs. Paint a birdhouse, a garage wall, or outdoor furniture.

RECYCLE

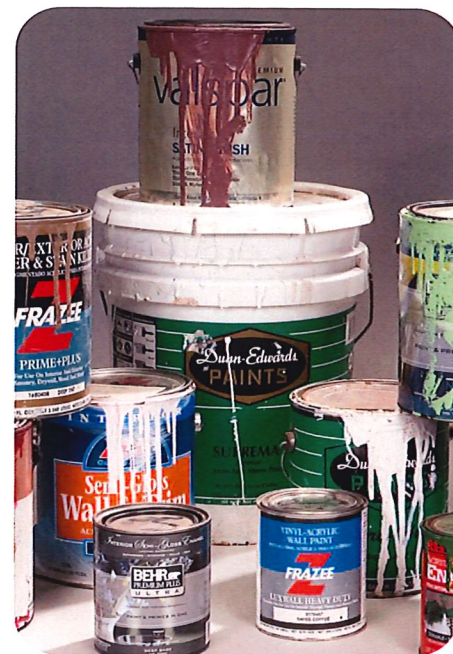
OIL BASED PAINTS

- Oil based paints are considered a household hazardous waste and should be disposed through household hazardous waste collection events. Check the RRRASOC.org website for event schedule or ask for the RRRASOC Household Hazardous Waste flyer.
- Handle paints containing petroleum distillates with great care. They are ignitable and their fumes are potentially harmful. Always follow label directions.
- You can solidify oil-based paints by allowing their volatile contents to evaporate in a well-ventilated area. Then, mix remaining liquids with absorbents and allow it to harden.
- Alternatively, apply leftover paint to scrap lumber or cardboard. Keep children and pets away while these paints are drying. Then place these scraps with your regular trash.

SOLVENTS

- You can "recycle" used solvents by allowing paint pigments to settle to the bottom, and later pouring the clarified liquid into a new or recycled (and accurately labeled) container. Mix the remaining solvent/paint sludge with an absorbent and dispose with normal trash.

Paints containing lead, cadmium or mercury are highly toxic and must be taken to a household hazardous-waste collection.



LATEX PAINT DISPOSAL

**DRY IT UP
THROW IT OUT**

Water-base paint is not hazardous and should be disposed of in the trash.

DETAILS ON REVERSE ►

Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland County

contact us at 20000 W. Eight Mile Rd. Southfield, MI 48075 online at www.RRRASOC.org or call 248.208.2270

Healthy Lawn and Garden

Techniques to help improve the health of home lawns and gardens, save time and money, and reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions.



R·R·R·A·S·O·C

Backyard Composting

Composting is the result of aerobic bacteria, fungi and other micro-organisms breaking down organic materials. Households produce a significant amount of organic material that is well suited for composting such as vegetative food scraps from the kitchen, dead houseplants, leaves, twigs, grass clippings, garden trimmings and weeds.

How To Compost

Materials needed: Sources of carbon, sources of nitrogen, air and water.

Ingredients: Green and brown yard waste, water as needed.

Your compost bin or pile will need more carbon (brown) materials than nitrogen (green) materials; about 25-30 parts carbon to one part nitrogen materials (C:N ratio; 25-30:1).

Carbon or brown materials are dry leaves, woody plant trimmings, paper, straw, pine needles and sawdust. Nitrogen or green materials are kitchen scraps (no meat, no fat, no bones), leafy plant trimmings, spent flowers, herbs and vegetables, livestock manure (no dog, cat or human manure), weeds (foliage only), pet bedding, hair and fur, feathers and hay.

Remember the **4 Rules of Composting:** Quality **Materials**, Adequate **Volume** of pile, Consistent **Moisture**, Good **Air** circulation.

Directions:

- 1.) Mix one part green yard waste with two parts brown to form a pile; an average size is 4'x4'x4'. For fast composting, chop it up first with a hoe or lawn mower.
- 2.) Mix in one inch of soil.
- 3.) Keep the pile as moist as a wrung-out sponge.
- 4.) Turn the pile every week to let air in.

Finished compost will take between four weeks and one year, depending on how often you turn it and how well you maintain the moisture of the pile.

Tips for Composting Grass Clippings

Grass clippings are mostly water and are very rich in nitrogen. They can be problematic because they tend to compact, increasing the chance of becoming anaerobic (absence of oxygen), matting together and emitting a strong ammonia-like odor. Here are some tips for composting this valuable "green":

- Compost grass clippings in thin layers, intermixed in a 2-to-1 ratio with brown materials such as dry leaves or plant debris.
- Save and bag Fall leaves for Spring/Summer grass composting.
- Use a thick layer of coarse brown material at the bottom of the pile or your bin for aeration.
- Let grass clippings dry out for a couple of days before composting.
- If you're attempting to compost a large quantity of grass clippings with a good source of brown material, turn the pile using a compost aeration tool, every few days to get air into the materials. This will help to prevent potential odors.

DID YOU KNOW?

As much as 35% of household waste is made up of kitchen scraps and yard clippings; which are ideal for backyard composting.

Do Compost

Leaves
Grass clippings
Dead plants
Vegetative food scraps
Fruit wastes
Manure
Straw/Hay
Coffee grounds
Weeds

Don't Compost

Weeds that have gone to seed and/or invasive
Wood ashes
Lime
BBQ charcoal
Meat, grease, bones
Dairy products
Cat, dog or human fecal matter
Contaminated matter
Branches and wood chunks

Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland County
contact us at 20000 W. Eight Mile Rd. Southfield, MI 48075 online at www.RRRASOC.org or call 248.208.2270

Healthy Lawn and Garden

Techniques to help improve the health of home lawns and gardens, save time and money, and reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions.



R·R·R·A·S·O·C

Manage Yard Clippings at Home Through Backyard Composting and Grasscycling.

Yard clippings are defined as 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. Many of these materials can be easily managed at home through backyard composting and grasscycling. These techniques can improve the health of home lawns and gardens, save time, money, and reduce harmful greenhouse Gas emissions.

Make the Most of Your Lawn and Your Time - Grasscycle!

Grasscycling, a simple natural approach to lawn care, is the practice of leaving grass clippings on the lawn or using them as mulch. Grass clippings are 75 to 85 percent water and decompose quickly. Through decomposition, grass clippings release nitrogen and other valuable nutrients resulting in a greener, healthier lawn without the use of fertilizer, pesticides and herbicides. Inappropriate application of fertilizer contributes to pollution of waterways which can impact the health of wildlife and aquatic species.

With grasscycling there is no raking or bagging of grass which means less time spent on lawn care. Consequently, eliminating the use of bags, reducing the frequency of stops and starts of the lawn mower to bag grass, and using grass clippings to add nutrients to the lawn instead of commercial fertilizer saves money. Less time using the mower will also save gas and reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions.

How To Grasscycle

Replace your conventional lawn mower blade with a mulching blade or use a mulching mower. Mulching mowers and blades are designed to allow the yard debris to be cut multiple times during the mowing process.

Mow grass to no more than 3 inches tall. For healthier grass, remove only one-third of the grass blade at a time, and no more than one-inch total. Leave the grass clippings where they fall and allow them to decompose.

Grasscycling Tips

- 1** Mow when lawn is dry
- 2** For wet lawns, raise the initial cutting height and gradually lower to proper height on follow-up passes
- 3** Use excess clippings as a mulch around plants or leave on the lawn
- 4** Direct clippings onto the lawn. Any clips that blow from under the mower onto sidewalks or driveways should be swept back onto the lawn to prevent them from ending up in surface water or drains. This adds nutrients to surface water and increases the growth of algae and other aquatic plants that can deplete oxygen in surface waters.

DID YOU KNOW?

When yard clippings decompose in landfills they create methane gas. The US EPA has identified landfills as the single largest source of methane (CH₄), a potent greenhouse gas that is 23 times more efficient at trapping heat than carbon dioxide (CO₂).

Landfills contribute approximately 34% of all man-made methane released to the atmosphere in the United States (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2007).

AMAZING FACT

During the spring and summer months grass clippings account for up to 50 percent of one's total yard trimmings.

MYTHBUSTER

Leaving grass clippings on your lawn does not cause thatch.

Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland County
contact us at 20000 W. Eight Mile Rd. Southfield, MI 48075 online at www.RRRASOC.org or call 248.208.2270