



The Americans with Disabilities Act applies to the Carroll County Government and its programs, services, activities and facilities. Anyone requiring an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication or who has a complaint should contact Jolene G. Sullivan, The Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator, 410.386.3600, 1.888.302.8978, MD Relay 7-1-1/1.800.735.2258 or email [jsullivan@ccg.carr.org](mailto:jsullivan@ccg.carr.org) as soon as possible but no later than 72 hours before the scheduled event.



*Dear County Residents,*

*Carroll County, through the Bureau of Solid Waste, is continually working to update and expand existing programs to further improve upon our recycling, and solid waste system.*

*This guide has information about services available to Carroll County residents for the disposal of your refuse, recycling, reducing waste and you will also find directions for making and managing a compost pile.*

*As you use this guide, please take advantage of the many County sponsored recycling and solid waste programs and services available to you. If you have any questions, you may e-mail the Bureau of Solid Waste at [solidwasterecycling@ccg.carr.org](mailto:solidwasterecycling@ccg.carr.org), call 410-386-2035, or visit our website at [www.recyclecarroll.org](http://www.recyclecarroll.org)*

*An integrated waste management program includes:*

*Reduce,  
Reuse,  
Recycle and  
Compost before disposal.*



Information provided in this booklet is subject to change.

# Introduction

## Information for Self Haulers

Northern Landfill/Hoods Mill Landfill.....	1
Recycling Center Drop-Off	
Vinyl Siding.....	2
Kitchen Frying Oil.....	2
Plastics.....	2
Rigid Plastic.....	2
Goodwill.....	3
Clothes/Textile Recycling.....	3
Car Batteries.....	3
Motor Oil and Antifreeze.....	3
Mixed Paper.....	3
Newspaper.....	3
Cardboard.....	3
Aluminum Cans.....	4
White Goods/Scrap Metal.....	4
Yard Trim.....	4
How to Recycle Rechargeable Batteries.....	4
Opt Out.....	4
Used Oil and Antifreeze Drop-Off Sites.....	5
Donate Before you Recycle.....	5
Swap sites.....	5
Internet sites of interest.....	6
Who do I call to pick up my Trash and Recycling?.....	6-7
Single Stream Recycling Program.....	8
Acceptable Items for Single Stream Recycling.....	9
Waste Prevention and Reduction Tips.....	10-11
Commercial Recycling.....	12
Recycling Yard Trim.....	13-14
Composting.....	15-16
How Carroll County Landfill Manages Yard Trimmings.....	16
Managing Household Hazardous Waste.....	16
Waste and Recycling Trivia.....	17
More opportunities for waste reduction.....	18

# Information for Self Haulers

Self Haulers (proof of residency required) can bring waste at the current rate to:

## **NORTHERN LANDFILL**

1400 Baltimore Boulevard, Westminster, MD 21157  
410-386-4550

### **HOURS OF OPERATION:**

Monday-Friday 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Saturday 7 a.m.-3 p.m.

Location: 2 Miles East of Town Mall, MD Rt. 140, between State Police Barracks and Reese Volunteer Fire Company

Acceptable single stream recyclables can be dropped off at the Recycling Center, located at the Northern Landfill during hours of operation. The Recycling Center also accepts Plastics-rigid plastics, grocery and empty food bags, plastic film, CD/DVD cases and discs, vinyl siding, car batteries; textiles (in clear bags) Acceptable Electronics which are computer monitors, computer speakers, televisions (no consoles), central processing units, computer mice, keyboards, cell phones, PDAs, printers, power supplies, laptop computers, scanners, computer cables and cords, miscellaneous circuit boards, chip and cards. Unacceptable Electronics include wooden stereo speakers, software, kitchen/bathroom appliances, Styrofoam and packaging material.

The landfill also accepts, at no charge, acceptable residential yard trimmings, (commercial yard trim fee), household appliances/scrap metal, used motor oil, antifreeze, vehicle batteries, car and light truck tires, (fee) each off the rim, (fee) each on the rim, limit is 5 tires, per year, per household. Commercial loads (fee). Over 5 tires require a State Hauling license. For information call MDE at 410-537-3314 or 1-800-633-6101 x3314. Aluminum can reimbursements are (Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday 8 a. m. to 2:30 p.m.)

## **HOODS MILL LANDFILL**

7901 Kabik Court, Woodbine, MD 21797  
410-386-4550

### **Open Saturdays Only**

7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Location: Southern Carroll County near MD Rt. 97 and Hoods Mill Road

Accepts all of the above except: appliances containing refrigerants, clothes/textiles, electronics, and does not offer aluminum can reimbursements.



# Recycling Center

## Vinyl Siding

Carroll County residents and small businesses can drop off, free of charge vinyl siding at the Recycling Center drop off area of the Northern Landfill. Painted siding, foam-backed siding, siding with nylon nail hem and siding with a fiberglass rod insert can not be accepted.

## Kitchen Frying Oil

Waste kitchen oil is accepted in a designated container, free of charge, from Carroll County Residents at the recycling Center drop off area at the Northern Landfill. Businesses may call the landfill at 410-386-4550 to see if they are eligible to participate and coordinate their drop-off. All of the used frying oil is recycled into bio-fuel replacement for traditional fossil fuels.

## Plastics

Grocery and empty food bags, plastic shrink wrap, stretch wrap, bubble wrap consolidated in a “bag inside of a bag” collection can be deposited into the Plastic Bag container. CD/DVD cases and Disks also have a separate container for collection.

## Rigid Plastic

A separate drop-off container for these items is available at the Northern and Hoods Mill Landfill.

### **Acceptable:**

Plastic Toys (including playhouses/pools), Plastic Milk/Soda Crates, Plastic Landscape Trays, Lawn Furniture, Plastic Pallets, Plastic Drums (any size), Plastic Shelving, Closet Organizers, Plastic Traffic Signs, Computer Housing (no circuit boards), Plastic Automotive Parts (bumpers, bed liners, grills, side-view mirrors, hub caps, head or rear light housing, etc.), Plastic Buckets (metal handles are OK), Plastic Laundry Baskets, Plastic Flower Pots/Trays (no soil), Plastic Totes and Clothing Boxes, Plastic Pet Carriers, Plastic Coolers, Plastic Dish Drainers, Empty Garbage or Recycling containers, 5 Gallon Water Bottles, Plastic Pesticide Containers (empty), Microwave Trays.

### **Unacceptable:**

PVC Piping or Tubing, Plastic Film (grocery bags & stretch film), Plastic Coated Paper, Oil or Chemical Containers, Vinyl Siding, Flexible Water Hoses, Hazardous Waste, Styrofoam, Medical Waste.

## Goodwill®

The County, in an effort to save landfill space and give reusable materials a second life, has partnered with Goodwill® to offer residents a full donation center. Goodwill® donations will be screened and sorted. Items that are in good used condition will be offered for sale at one of their retail stores. Donations are the vital first step in making sure Goodwill® can provide job training programs and services to people with disabilities, those who lack education or job experience and others facing challenges to finding employment. Items that cannot be sold are recycled. Staff will also be available to give receipts for donated items.

Goodwill® makes every effort to reuse, recycle and extend the life cycle of donated items. However, there are a few items **not accepted** as donations because of the expense to dispose of them properly. **These include: Broken, torn, stained, odorous furniture, Hazardous material, Framing supplies, Appliances**

## ReStore

ReStore accepts unused building materials and appliances to raise funds to build more Habitat homes for hardworking families in need.

**They do not accept:** Unframed mirrors or glass, Lumber, plywood, siding, or trim under 4ft. long, Used or opened paint, Used carpet. Building materials with nails or screws, Gas stoves

## Clothes/Textile Recycling

Clothing/textile recycling is available at the Recycling Center, Northern Landfill. Acceptable items are: clothing, hats, drapes, towels, sheets, blankets, table cloths, paired shoes and socks, and any textile article larger than 15" x15". *Items must be dry, clean and free of odor. Place textiles in a clear plastic bag.*

**Car Batteries** A collection area is provided for recycling car batteries.

## Motor Oil/Antifreeze

Up to 5 gallons per/week/resident of used motor oil and antifreeze can be taken to the Recycling Center at the Northern Landfill and Hoods Mill Landfill.

**NOTE:** Used motor oil and antifreeze may be dropped off at the Town Maintenance Garages in Hampstead and Sykesville. Used motor oil may also be dropped off at Westminster's Public Works Facility, Town of Manchester Garage and Taneytown Memorial Park.

## Mixed Paper, Newspaper, Cardboard

Separate containers are available for sorted paper and cardboard at the Recycling Center.

## Aluminum Can Reimbursement

Aluminum beverage cans (reimbursement between 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Monday – Friday and 8 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Saturday) Reimbursement fluctuates with the market value.

## White Goods/Scrap Metal

Scrap metal, washers, dryers, hot water heaters, air conditioners, freezers and refrigerators, etc., (doors must be removed).

## Yard Trim

Leaves, grass, shrubs and tree trimmings (limited to 8' in length and 4" diameter) must be brought in paper lawn bags or loose. Plastic bags are prohibited in this area. No charge to residents – commercial/businesses pay a fee.

## Recycle Rechargeable Batteries



The Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation (RBRC) can help you recycle your portable rechargeable batteries. These batteries are commonly found in cordless power tools, cellular and cordless phones, laptop computers, camcorders, digital cameras, and remote control toys.

Listed below are some of the local participating retailers who accept rechargeable batteries for recycling: Lowe's, 410-857-7445, Radio Shack, 410-876-7992, Staples, 410-857-3950, Swain Portable Power Tool Repair, 410-751-6802, and the Hampstead Wal-Mart, 410-374-5344. For more information visit: [www.rbrc.org](http://www.rbrc.org). Check with local senior centers for cell phone recycling.

## OPT OUT!

Get yourself removed from direct marketing mailing lists, telemarketer phone lists, and credit information sharing lists. All registrations are free. You will definitely see a difference in the amount of junk mail and telephone solicitations you receive. For more information visit: <http://www.lavasurfer.com/info/optout.html>, or <http://www.obviously.com/junkmail>.



To have your name removed from mailing lists directly by mail send a postcard to: Mail Preference Service, Direct Mail Marketing Association, P.O. Box 643, Carmel, NY, 10512-0643 and ask that your name be removed from the mailing lists being sold to the major mailing list companies.



## Other Programs

### Used Oil and Antifreeze Drop-Off Sites

**Hoods Mill Landfill:** 410-386-4550 7901 Kabik Ct., Sykesville,  
7 a.m. - 3 p.m., Sat. only

**Hampstead Town Maintenance Garage:** 410-239-6659 4031 Gill Ave, 24 hours

**Manchester Town Garage:** 410-239-3200 3351 Victory St., 24 hours, (No antifreeze)

**Sykesville Public Works Garage:** 410-795-8959 7547 Main St. (rear), Mon.-Fri., 7 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**Westminster Public Works Facility:** 410-848-9000. (No antifreeze) 105 Railroad Avenue, 24 hours

**Westminster, Northern Landfill:** 410-386-4550 Mon. - Fri. 7 a.m. - 4 p.m. & Sat. 7 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

**Taneytown, Memorial Park:** 410-751-1100 at the Old Recycling Center, daylight hours, 7 days a week. (No antifreeze)

## DONATE BEFORE YOU RECYCLE

(Call in advance to find out what they are accepting.)

<b>Goodwill Industries of Westminster</b> .....	410-857-9993
<b>Northeast Social Action Program's Community Clothing Store</b> .....	410-239-6216
<b>Purple Heart Service Foundation</b> .....	410-712-0199
<b>Rescue Mission and Thrift Store, Westminster</b> .....	410-848-2222
<b>Salvation Army, Carroll County Service Center</b> .....	1-800-229-7156
<b>Second Chances</b> .....	410-848-5599
<b>Shepherd's Staff</b> .....	410-857-5944
<b>Habitat for Humanity ReStore Frederick</b> .....	301-662-2988
<b>The Loading Dock</b> .....	410-588-3625

## Swap Sites



### [www.Freecycle.org](http://www.freecycle.org)

It's a grassroots and entirely nonprofit movement of people who are giving (& getting) stuff for free in their own towns. It's all about reuse and keeping good stuff out of landfills. Each local group is moderated by a local volunteer. Membership is free.

### [www.swapbabygoods.com](http://www.swapbabygoods.com)

Web site providing a friendly place for parents to swap, buy or sell baby items that are no longer needed. Their philosophy is very simple - Why buy when you can swap?

### [www.swapstyle.com](http://www.swapstyle.com)

This is an online fashion exchange where you can swap clothes, shoes, accessories with people from around the world.

## Internet Sites of Interest:

For Carroll County solid waste and recycling information including landfill information, how to manage household hazardous waste and electronics recycling etc., log onto: [www.recyclecarroll.org](http://www.recyclecarroll.org)



[www.mde.state.md.us](http://www.mde.state.md.us) Provides information on environmental programs in the State of Maryland including Solid Waste and Recycling.

[www.mdrecycles.org](http://www.mdrecycles.org) This site is managed by the Northeast Maryland Solid Waste Disposal Authority. You can find information on commercial and residential recycling, Recycling Directory for Markets, Donation Directory and more.

[www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov). Under Popular Topics, click on Recycling

The above listings are only a sampling of organizations and groups involved in purchasing, reselling, reusing unwanted goods or otherwise information resources and are not an endorsement for any particular business or service.



## Who do I call to pick up my trash and recycling?

**FIRST**, if you live in a subdivision or planned neighborhood, find out if there is a Homeowners Association for your community. Often, the HOA contracts

waste and recycling service for the neighborhood.

**SECOND**, if you don't have a Homeowners Association, contact your city or town. Cities and towns manage waste and recycling service for incorporated areas.

**THIRD**, if you live in an unincorporated region and not in a city or town, you are free to contract waste and recycling removal with any hauler that you prefer or to self haul to the County landfill.

# RECYCLE

Recycling is separating materials from the waste stream and re-manufacturing them into new products. Curbside recycling is available County-wide through waste haulers. County Government manages waste by licensing private waste haulers. Under the licensing requirements, each hauler is mandated to offer a separate collection for recyclables. All eight incorporated municipalities provide waste and recycling services for their residents. For information call your city or town office.



## **Hampstead Town Hall**

1034 South Carroll St.  
Hampstead, MD 21074  
410-239-7408  
Fax: 410-239-6143  
Web site: [www.townofhampstead.us](http://www.townofhampstead.us)  
E-mail: [hampstead@carr.org](mailto:hampstead@carr.org)

## **Manchester Town Hall**

3208 York Street, P.O. Box 830  
Manchester, MD 21102  
410-239-3200  
Fax: 410-239-6430  
Web site: [www.manchestermd.org](http://www.manchestermd.org)  
E-mail: [manchestermd@comcast.net](mailto:manchestermd@comcast.net)

## **Mt. Airy Town Hall**

110 S. Main Street, P.O. Box 50  
Mt. Airy, MD 21771  
410-795-6012, 301-831-5768 or 301-829-1424  
Fax: 301-829-1259  
Web site: [www.mountairymd.org](http://www.mountairymd.org)  
E-mail: [town@mountairymd.org](mailto:town@mountairymd.org)  
[info@mountairymd.org](mailto:info@mountairymd.org)

## **New Windsor Town Hall**

211 High Street, P.O. Box 609  
New Windsor, MD 21776  
410-635-6575  
Fax: 410-635-2995  
Web site: [www.newwindsormd.org](http://www.newwindsormd.org)  
E-mail: [info@newwindsormd.org](mailto:info@newwindsormd.org)

## **Sykesville Town Hall**

7547 Main Street  
Sykesville, MD 21784  
410-795-8959  
Fax: 410-795-3818  
Web site: [www.sykesville.net](http://www.sykesville.net)  
E-mail: [town@sykesville.net](mailto:town@sykesville.net)

## **Taneytown City Hall**

17 East Baltimore Street  
Taneytown, MD 21787  
410-751-1100  
Fax: 410-751-1608  
Web Site: [www.taneytown.org](http://www.taneytown.org)  
[info@taneytown.org](mailto:info@taneytown.org)

## **Union Bridge Town Hall**

104 W. Locust St.  
Union Bridge, MD 21791  
410-775-2711, Fax: 410-775-0679  
Web site: [www.carr.org/~unionbr](http://www.carr.org/~unionbr)  
E-mail: [unionbr@carr.org](mailto:unionbr@carr.org)

## **Westminster City Hall**

P.O. Box 710  
1838 Emerald Hill Lane  
Westminster, MD 21158  
410-848-9000  
Fax: 410-857-7476  
Web site: [www.westgov.com](http://www.westgov.com)  
E-mail: [streets@westgov.com](mailto:streets@westgov.com)

# Single Stream Recycling

Carroll County's Single Stream Recycling Program allows residents to set out more materials for recycling.

## Q) What is single-stream recycling?

A) Single-Stream recycling is a recycling process in which materials are collected all mingled together with no sorting required by individual recyclers. So cans and bottles can be recycled together with newspaper, cardboard, etc.

## Q) What happens to the single-stream recycling once it's collected?

A) Once the single-stream materials are collected they are taken to the Northern Landfill and Recycling Center. The recyclable materials are then transferred to trucks and taken to a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) where the recyclable materials are separated and sent to various markets for sale.

## Q) What happens at the MRF?

A) The MRF uses a system of sorting mechanisms, which can divide the recyclables into different categories.

## Q) Once things are separated what happens to them?

A) Once the recyclables have been separated at the MRF, they are then sent out to the different markets, where the actual recycling of the material happens.

## "It's That Easy"

*Review the guidelines to ensure you are familiar with the items that can or cannot be recycled. Sort your recyclable items from the trash and place in your recycle bin.*



# ACCEPTABLE RECYCLABLE MATERIALS

## Single Stream Recycling

# WHAT TO RECYCLE

### We DO Accept

#### Glass Jars & Bottles

All food and beverage jars and bottles of all colors



#### Rigid Plastic Bottles, Jugs & other Plastic

Narrow-neck plastic containers with a 1 through 7

Wide-neck plastic containers  
Plastic food containers (such as cottage cheese, margarine)  
Plastic film, wrap, or bags

#### Aluminum & Tin

All food and beverage containers, foil, disposable aluminum pans & empty aerosol cans

### ATTENTION!

Labels and Caps do not have to be removed; rinse containers

Labels and Caps do not have to be removed; rinse containers

Rinse containers; labels do not have to be removed

### NOT Accepted

Window glass  
Drinking glasses  
Dishes or ceramics  
Light bulbs  
CFL fluorescent bulbs  
Mirrors



Plastic toys  
Styrofoam containers  
Plastic plates, knives, forks, spoons, etc.  
No #6 wide mouth or clamshell containers  
No motor oil/transmission fluid bottles

Scrap metal (such as engine or car parts, bicycles, chairs, etc.)  
Pots and pans  
Fencing, siding, or screening  
Hangers or wire

## PAPER RECYCLING

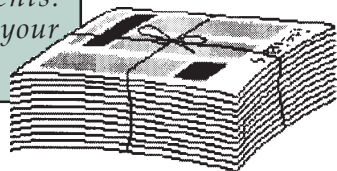
### We DO Accept

Newspaper/Inserts  
Magazines  
Telephone Directories  
Junk Mail/Envelopes  
Catalogues  
Cardboard  
Chipboard/No Inserts  
Office Paper/School Paper  
Fax Paper/Paper Bags  
Paperback Books  
Hardback Books  
Shredded Paper in Secured Clear Bag  
Juice & Broth Boxes  
Milk & Juice Gable Top Containers  
Non-Metallic Wrapping Paper

You no longer need to sort containers from paper; place all recyclables together in one container. It is easy to **single-stream!** Haulers may require different set-out requirements. Please contact your waste hauler.

### NOT Accepted

Wax Coated Cardboard  
Grease or Oil Soaked Paper  
Carbon Paper  
Blueprints



# Waste Prevention and Reduction Tips



- **Reduce or eliminate types of material that:**
  - o Make up the bulk of your waste stream
  - o Have excessive or unnecessary packaging
  - o Have a negative environmental impact (i.e. - toxic waste/byproducts)
- **Choose and request reusable packing for supplies and items that are bought.**
- **Order in bulk for supplies with a long shelf life.**
- **Use and request refillable/reusable containers and reusable pumps/dispensers where appropriate.**
- **Before discarding surplus, leftover or reusable materials, explore the possibility of donating them to non-profit organizations or consider Freecycle.org.**
- **Buy Recycled.** Where practical and available, order products with recycled content. This reinforces the viability of recycling and strengthens markets for recyclable materials.

## The implementation of waste reduction strategies:

- o Avoids landfilling and recycling costs
- o Conserves natural resources
- o Reduces pollution
- o Reduces waste disposal costs
- o Produces savings from the adoption of more efficient purchasing, packaging and work practices indicated by an examination of waste prevention and reduction principles

## Waste Reduction

*There are three elements to waste reduction:*

**Reuse** - the reuse of previously used items in their original form, i.e. no processing necessary

**Recycling** - the collection, sale and remanufacturing or reprocessing of materials which would otherwise be disposed of as garbage

**Composting** - the process of converting organic, biodegradable material into a nutrient-rich, soil-like material



# Close the Recycling Loop

## Buy Recycled Products

*“If you’re not buying recycled, you’re not really recycling.”*



Unless each step is followed, there is a breakdown in the recycling loop.

Many products are made from recycled materials; from cereal boxes to paper clips. When shopping, look for recycled products. Read labels, look for the highest percentage of “post-consumer recycled content” you can find. When you “Buy Recycled”, you complete the recycling loop.

Here are some safe bets - these products always have a significant amount of recycled content even though many such products are not often labeled “recycled”:

- \* Steel - including food cans, cars, appliances, bicycles, furniture, nails, anything made with steel.
- \* Aluminum - including beverage cans.
- \* Glass - glass bottles and jars.
- \* Molded Pulp Containers - including gray or brown cardboard egg cartons and flower boxes.

### **Other Products to Look for:**

- \* Paper Products - Cereal, cake mix and cracker boxes, facial tissues, toilet paper, paper towels, napkins, corrugated cardboard boxes, greeting cards and a variety of office paper products.
- \* Plastic Bottles - Bottles and jugs containing liquid laundry detergent, dishwashing liquids, shampoos and household cleaners.

Other General Products - Include re-refined motor oil, fiberfill for sleeping bags, carpeting, shoes, pencils, recycling bins, clothing, building supplies and many more. It’s important to read the labels!



The success of recycling depends on the following:

- Separation of recyclable materials from the waste stream.
- Re-manufacturing and made into new products.
- Consumers buying and using the new recycled products.

## Commercial Recycling

### Why Recycle?

Reducing waste through recycling:

- o Projects a positive corporate image
- o May reduce waste disposal costs
- o May generate revenue from the sale of recycled materials
- o Is environmentally and socially responsible
- o Conserves limited natural resources
- o Conserves landfill space
- o Produces energy savings and reduces pollution
- o The use of recovered materials instead of virgin materials in many manufacturing processes requires less energy and reduces the potential for pollution



# RECYCLING YARD TRIM

Grass clippings traditionally have been bagged and hauled to waste disposal facilities. On May 1, 1994, in an effort to save landfill space and recycle a valuable resource, Carroll County banned yard trimmings from being disposed in the landfill or at the transfer station.

## Yard Trim Facts

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that yard trim accounts for 18% of refuse.

½ acre lawn produces more than three tons and an estimated 260 bags of grass clippings per year.

Grass clippings do not cause thatch. Thatch is a matted layer of dead roots and stem, usually caused by too much water & fertilizer.

Grass clippings are 75% to 85% water.

Nitrogen contained in grass clippings can generate up to 25% of the lawn's yearly fertilizer needs.

The best way to handle yard trim is to **GRASSCYCLE** and **COMPOST**

## What is Grasscycling?

Grasscycling means leaving grass clippings on the lawn. Grasscycling is the easiest, most environmentally beneficial method of dealing with grass clippings. It saves money; labor and time spent hauling the clippings to the compost pile and reduces the use of fertilizers that are unfriendly to the environment.

Grass clippings are a good source of fertilizer and an important part of a low maintenance lawn. Leaving grass clippings on the lawn each time the grass is cut provides about 2 pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet of lawn.

## Grasscycling Guidelines

\* Any mower that is in good working condition and has a sharp blade can be used for grasscycling. Just remove the grass catcher

and install a plug or use an adapter kit if necessary. Installing a mulching blade is helpful, but not necessary.

\* Mow when the grass is dry and never cut more than 1/3 of the blade at a time. In fast-growing season you may need to cut every 5-7 days, and in slow-growing season every 7-14 days.





## Proper Watering Practice

When needed, water your lawn in the morning. Morning prevents evaporation, allowing most of the water to penetrate into the soil.

Water 1" per week during dry seasons (hint - place an empty can under the sprinkler to determine when an inch has been applied). Watering 1" will wet the soil to a depth of 4" to 6" encouraging deep root growth. Avoid frequent, light watering. This practice encourages shallow roots, increasing the risk of disease and stress injury.

## Fertilizer Application

Before fertilizing your lawn, have your soil tested. The test result will determine what type of nutrients your soil needs and when it should be applied.

Excess fertilizer, or fertilizer applied at the wrong time, can harm your lawn. An excess of nutrients can result in rapid growth, which is more prone to disease and pests, and can lead to surface and ground water pollution.

## Alternative Landscaping

**Consider Grass Alternatives** - Plant shrubs, put in rock and/or wildflower gardens. Where suitable, plant ground covers such as periwinkle, pachysandra, ivy, sedum, or phlox. These alternatives reduce the need for mowing and help to reduce lawn maintenance.

## Benefits of Grasscycling

- \* Reduces the amount of waste needing disposal.
- \* Grass clippings decompose quickly returning nutrients back into the soil.
- \* Saves mowing and bagging time.
- \* Saves money.
- \* Cuts the need to fertilize by 25%.
- \* Provides moisture and nutrients to the soil and reduces the need for frequent watering.
- \* Grasscycling is a win-win situation for you, our communities, disposal facilities and environment.

# Composting



## What is composting?

Composting is a biological decomposition of organic waste by bacteria, worms and other organisms. Composting yard trimmings is an environmentally sound way of reducing solid waste by turning a useful resource into a dark, crumbly, earthy-smelling material called compost/humus. Compost/humus can be used as a soil amendment for flower or vegetable gardens, potted plants and other lawn maintenance applications.

## *How and What to Compost?*

Before starting, choose an appropriate location for your compost pile. Build the pile close to a water source and at least one-foot away from any wooden structure. Composting can be as simple as a mixed pile of yard trimmings in a corner of your yard or as sophisticated as a multi-chambered bin. The two methods of composting can either be a slow (cold) process or a fast (hot) process.

### Slow Compost

Slow (cold) composting is a mixture of yard trimmings placed in a heap or a bin as they are generated. There is no maintenance to this form of composting, but keep in mind that the process is slow and will take a year or longer for the material to break down into a compost material.

### *Fast Compost*

Fast (hot) composting will take some planning and a little more maintenance, but the compost can be ready in as little as three months.

1. Construct a 6-10" layer of brush by layering a variety of twigs, branches, corn stalks and other coarse materials on the ground or in the bin. This base will provide drainage for the pile.
2. Layer 2/3 of brown material (carbon) dry leaves, straw or wood shavings.
3. Add 1/3 green source (nitrogen) such as fresh grass clippings, green yard trimmings (weeds, herbs, flowers, perennials, prunings, etc.) and vegetable and food scraps (optional) - anything other than meat or dairy-related materials or shortenings. Mix the brown and green materials together.

*continued*

4. Between layers add ½ shovel-full of either: garden soil, bone or blood meal, or a shovel-full of fireplace ashes, crushed rock dust or a commercial compost starter.
5. Add water to be as damp as a wrung-out sponge, moist to the touch, but no water should come out when squeezed.
6. Turn the pile every two weeks.

## How the Landfill Manages Yard Trimmings

Yard trimmings are accepted at the Carroll County Landfills. If you choose to bring yard trimmings to the landfill, it is preferred that they be brought in loose or in paper lawn bags. Acceptable wood trimmings not to exceed 8' in length and 4" in diameter. **Plastic bags are prohibited at the yard trim area.**

The wood trimmings, grass and leaves are chipped into mulch. The mulch is available to County residents at no charge. *Come prepared to self-load and wear appropriate clothes.*



## Managing Household Hazardous Waste

*By using the following waste reducing recipes, you avoid creating waste, save money and eliminate toxic chemicals.*

*(Hint - keep lots of white vinegar and baking soda on hand.)*

**Clogs** - Unclog drains by pouring boiling water with a few tablespoons of baking soda and a large splash of vinegar down drains. This once-a-week treatment will prevent clogs.

**Ceramic Tile Cleaner** - Mix one cup of white vinegar with one gallon of water. Place in a spray bottle - spray tiles and wipe dry.

**Glass Cleaner** - Mix 1 tablespoon of vinegar or lemon juice in 1 quart of water. Spray on and use newspaper to wipe dry.

**Furniture Polish** - Mix three parts olive oil, with one part lemon juice or vinegar and apply with a clean soft cloth.

**Toilet Cleaner** - Sprinkle some baking soda into the bowl, then drizzle with vinegar and scour with a toilet brush.

**Ant Repellant** - Wash counter tops, cabinets, and floors with equal parts water and vinegar.

**Roach Repellant** - Mix equal parts oatmeal, flour, and plaster of paris placed in dishes, or apply a blend of equal parts baking soda and powdered sugar to infested areas, or sprinkle boric acid around baseboards. (Do not place within reach of children or pets.)



# WASTE *and* RECYCLING TRIVIA

Before you discard that paper, aluminum can, newspaper, metal can, or bottle in the trashcan to contribute to the landfill problem, consider responsible recycling.

## The Benefits of Waste Prevention, Reuse and Recycling...

*Conserves Natural Resources - trees, mineral ores, petroleum, other virgin materials and water.*

*Saves energy.*

*Prevents emissions of many greenhouse gases and water pollutants.*

*Reduces the need for new landfills and incinerators. And creates jobs.*

▶▶ In 2009 Carroll County diverted 42% of its waste from the landfill.

▶▶ Aluminum cans can be recycled and returned to store shelves in as little as 60 days.

▶▶ Telephone directories distributed in the State of Maryland must have a recycled content, by weight, of 40%.

▶▶ Wood is the only 100 percent renewable, recyclable, reusable and biodegradable resource we have, making the stewardship of wood products an invaluable step in conserving resources.

▶▶ Glass containers can be recycled endlessly from bottle-to-bottle.

▶▶ Every year, upgrades or damage make 100 million cell phones obsolete.

▶▶ It takes 91 percent less energy to recycle a pound of plastic than it takes to recycle a pound of paper.

▶▶ When one ton of plastic bags are reused or recycled, the energy equivalent of 11 barrels of oil is saved.

▶▶ The total pounds of plastic bottles recycled reached a record high 2,410 million pounds in 2008.

▶▶ Recycling 1 ton of cardboard saves 9 cubic yards of landfill space and 46 gallons of oil.



# Don't Let the Holidays Go to Waste...

Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle in Carroll County, Maryland this Holiday Season

## No-Waste Gift-Giving

*Here are a few ideas on how to have a wonderful, gift-giving holiday season and still be earth friendly.*

- ✂ Not sure what to get someone? How about a gift certificate? That way, you know the gift will be kept.
- ✂ Make gifts. Everyone appreciates a home-cooked meal or baked goodies.
- ✂ Consider nonmaterial gifts. Tickets to a sporting event, movie, play, or concert are a real treat! Or make a charitable donation in someone's name.
- ✂ When you go shopping, bring your own reusable bags.
- ✂ Think durable! Consider how long an item will last before you make a purchase. Often, a cheaper item will wear out long before its more durable equivalent.
- ✂ Look for items made with recycled content.

## Waste Reduction with Wrapping, Packaging, Greeting Cards

- ✂ Creative wrapping paper substitutes include used blueprint paper, the Sunday comics, or even the sports section for a sports enthusiast. Design your own wrapping paper using paper shopping bags: decorate them with paints, crayons, or markers.
- ✂ If you send holiday cards, buy recycled-content cards and envelopes. Or make your own cards out of last year's cards and the wrapping paper you saved.
- ✂ Make gift tags from last year's holiday cards.
- ✂ Shipping a gift? Reuse the foam peanuts from another package, or use unbuttered popcorn for packing.



## No-Waste Gift-Wrapping

- ✂ Wrap the gift in a drawstring bag/luggage tag for the gift tag.
- ✂ Use a jewelry box for some flea market 'jewels.'
- ✂ For a person who is handy, wrap a gift in a tool box.
- ✂ Any kitchen gift can be wrapped in a colorful dish towel. Kitchen utensils can pop out of an oven mitt.
- ✂ Place home-baked cookies in a reusable tin box or kitchen container.
- ✂ For a reader, wrap a book in a reusable canvas shopping sack.
- ✂ Wrap tools for a gardener in the pocket of an apron, planter, or bucket.
- ✂ Hang earrings, bracelets, or necklaces right on the Christmas tree, or put them inside or around an open ornament.
- ✂ Search the flea market, garage sales, and thrift stores for interesting old boxes that can be used as decorative packages.
- ✂ Search the attic for old family photos and mementos and give them to your favorite relative wrapped in your child's artwork

This waste management and recycling guide is to assist you in finding local resources that will help with reducing waste and assist with reuse and recycling efforts. It will also serve as a guide for alternative disposal of household hazardous waste and more difficult to recycle items such as appliances and tires. You will also find directions for making and managing a compost pile.

While every attempt has been made to provide you with accurate information, the reality is businesses, resources, information, locations and programs do change. It is recommended that you call the organizations or businesses listed to ensure that services listed are still offered. Many times rates and hours change before an updated guide is published.

If information is incorrect, omitted, has changed, or you have suggested topics to add, please contact our office. This directory will be updated regularly and any assistance is appreciated.

Please contact:



**Carroll County Government**  
**Bureau of Solid Waste**  
225 N. Center Street  
Westminster, Maryland 21157  
410-386-2035

Copies of this booklet can be found on the Web at  
[www.recyclecarroll.org](http://www.recyclecarroll.org)



**Carroll County Government**  
**Bureau of Solid Waste**  
225 N. Center Street  
Westminster, Maryland 21157  
410-386-2035

*Carroll County, Maryland...A great place to live, work, play and recycle!*