

# It's Easy To Reduce Your Yard Waste.



## Grasscycling

*Let your grass clippings fall back on the lawn when you mow. Just mow and go!*

### GRASS HEIGHT

Cut no more than one-third of the length of the blade of grass at a time and set the mower blade at a height of three inches. For Bermuda and Zoysia grasses, set the mower blade at one inch.



### FREQUENCY

Mow at least once per week during the growing season.



### CUT WHEN DRY

Cut your grass when it is dry. This allows for better distribution of the grass clippings and prevents clumping.



*Note: Grass clippings do NOT lead to thatch buildup. Thatch is caused by improper fertilization and watering that encourages root systems to remain close to the surface.*

## Composting

*The easy way to recycle your grass and leaves into nutrient-rich soil.*

**COMPOST BIN** – Get a compost bin from the Montgomery County Division of Solid Waste Services for no additional charge. Go to [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/yardtrim](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/yardtrim) or call 311 for a list of locations.



**START YOUR COMPOST PILE** – Place a mixture of brown and green materials into your compost bin and add water. Ideally you want a mixture of carbon-rich “brown” materials (leaves, sawdust, straw, woodchips, etc.) to nitrogen-rich “green” materials (grass clippings, flowers, plant trimmings, etc.)



**KEEP OUT FOOD WASTE** – Do not add food scraps to the compost bin. Food can attract pests such as insects and rodents.



## Greening Your Yard

*Less yard waste and less work.*

### REDUCE PRUNINGS

Reduce plant trimmings by selecting dwarf varieties of plants and shrubs that require less pruning.



### USE GROUND COVER

Plant ground cover instead of grass whenever possible to reduce grass clippings.



### LANDSCAPE DESIGN

Design landscaping areas that require low maintenance. Replace turf area with recycled stones/bricks, rocks and mulch (shredded wood chips).



For more detailed information on these topics, visit [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling).

Montgomery County  
Division of Solid Waste Services

Visit [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling)

Call: 311  
TTY: Maryland Relay 711



**Montgomery County**  
**Division of Solid Waste Services**  
101 Monroe Street, 6th Floor  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

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# Grasscycling, Composting & Other Ideas

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