

## Yard Waste Disposal Alternatives

### Composting

As a homeowner, you can reduce the amount of yard waste at your home by composting. Composting is a natural process that turns organic matter into a dark, rich, and crumbly substance called humus, an excellent soil supplement. About 29% of residential yard waste can be composted - grass clippings, leaves, brush, and other material from the yard, as well as most food scraps.

#### **Composting has several benefits:**

- Prevents useful material from your yard and kitchen from being wasted in a landfill
- Reduces the amount of material being landfilled
- Reduces yard work and the expense of store bought soils and fertilizers
- Enhances the growth of flowers, vegetables, shrubs, and houseplants.
- Replaces nutrients in the soil, improves moisture retention, moderates temperatures, controls weeds, and decreases soil erosion

**Additional information on backyard composting can be found on the Chester County Solid Waste Authority website [here](#)**

### Grasscycling

Cut it high and let it lie! The Environmental Protection Agency recommends leaving grass clippings on your lawn rather than collecting and bagging them to reduce the amount of waste that is collected and processed. Grasscycling enhances the natural health of your lawn. Grass clippings increase the soil's organic matter, along with its ability to retain moisture and nutrients, resist erosion, and maintain cooler temperatures during the summer. Clippings should be no more than one inch long in order to fall through the grass into the soil.

### Other Alternatives to the Yard Waste Program

- Use small branches as kindling.
- Mow high and regularly - spend less time on yard work and eliminate the chore of bagging. Clippings return nutrients to the soil that makes your lawn green and healthy. Grass clippings do not cause thatch.
- Compost flowers and vegetables with leaves and grass clippings. Compost helps keep the soil moist, cuts down on weeds, and helps keep the soil from getting too hot or too cold.
- Cut back on the expense of fertilizers and topsoil by composting at home.
- Select trees, shrubs, and grasses that thrive under local weather and soil conditions or slow-growing plants for less pruning and trimming.