Yard Trim

What is yard trim?

Primarily found outside on your property, yard trim consists of leaves, grass, brush, and other garden trimmings. Other items found within residences and businesses that can also be considered yard trim are flowers, greenery, and Christmas trees.

How do you recycle this product?

Residents of Single-Family Homes:
All grass, leaves, garden trimmings, and brush are recyclable.
Grasscycling and **composting** are easy and the most cost-effective, time-reducing, value-added ways to recycle your yard trim. These methods reduce the time required to bag grass and leaves, and money spent on bags, and in the end, will give your lawn a healthier look and feel. If grasscycling and composting are not available options, yard trim must be properly bundled, bagged or placed in a reusable container (such as a plastic or metal container, which must be appropriately labeled) at curbside on your designated recycling day by 7:00 a.m. For proper bundling and bagging procedures, visit the Division of Solid Waste Services (DSWS) Web site at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling.

Multi-Family Properties:
Property managers are responsible for recycling grass, leaves, garden trimmings, and brush collected on-site. Work with your landscaping contractor or on-site staff to ensure that these items are properly recycled by grasscycling or composting. Property managers are also responsible for providing on-site recycling service for their residents' Christmas trees. Call your property management office for details. Multi-Family properties may self-haul their yard trim to the Yard Trim area at the Montgomery County Solid Waste Transfer Station.

Businesses:
Owners and managers of small, medium, and large businesses, as well as property owners of commercial properties, are also responsible for recycling yard trim. Work with your landscaping contractor or on-site staff to ensure that these items are being properly recycled on-site by grasscycling or composting. Businesses may self-haul their yard trim to the Yard Trim area at the Montgomery County Solid Waste Transfer Station.

Follow these rules when recycling this material:

		MAX 45 lbs			
Try Grasscycling or Composting Instead	**Use Reusable Containers Clearly Labeled for Yard Trim**	**Each Container, Bundle, or Bag CANNOT exceed 45 lbs.**	**Use Paper Bags or Bundle & Tie with Twine**	**No Plastic Bags**	**Remove All Decorations, Garland, and Lights from Christmas Trees**

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Recycling is the Law.

Executive Regulation 15-04AM requires recycling of Yard Trim.

Does recycling yard trim make a difference?

Recycling of yard trim and Christmas trees is required under Montgomery County Executive Regulation (ER) 15-04AM. Recycling yard trim helps our environment. Recycling yard trim prevents erosion, slows runoff from rain and melting snow, and traps sediments and chemicals before they enter our streams and waterways, thus reducing pollution.

What other items can be recycled besides leaves, grass, and brush?

After the holiday season is over, the County collects **Christmas trees** from single-family homes for recycling into high-quality mulch. Collection begins in late December and continues until early February. Residents of apartments or condominiums and businesses should check with their property manager or business for specific recycling instructions for Christmas trees.

Why should we grasscycle?

With the increasing amount of yard waste being collected by the County, it is becoming more and more difficult to process yard waste at local facilities. Excess yard waste has to be shipped to other facilities, costing the County more money. Recycling your yard trim at home and work will not only benefit you by saving money on fertilizers but it will also benefit the County by saving money on transportation fees and other costs associated with processing these materials.

Help Reduce Waste

Grasscycling - Grasscycling is a means of fertilizing your property by leaving grass clippings cut during the mowing process on the lawn. Using a mulching mower can simplify this process. When a lawn is properly cut (i.e. no shorter than one-third of the blade when mowing), the grass clippings are virtually undetectable and return to the lawn keeping it green and healthy without the need for chemicals.

Composting - Composting is an easy process of turning leaves and grass into a nutrient-filled soil conditioner. Simply pile leaves and grass clippings (any time of the year) in a designated location or in a compost bin, making certain to turn, fluff, and aerate the compost pile occasionally. To avoid odors, mix in straw or wood chips. When the compost is dark brown-black, crumbly and sweet smelling, it is ready to spread over your lawn and/or garden.

How can I get a compost bin? - Visit our Web site at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling for a list of locations where Montgomery County residents and businesses can get a compost bin at no cost.

Close the Loop

Just like buying recycled paper or steel products, there are a variety of recycled yard trim products available at gardening supply stores in your area. Yard trim collected by the County is brought to a local composting facility, processed, and resold as soil conditioner for lawns and gardens. Look for "LeafGro" and "ComPro" at participating Maryland retailers.

How do I know if I am buying products made from recycled materials and where do I find them?

Look for the "made with recycled-content" symbol ♲. When it is on a package, you can be sure that the product is made with recycled materials. Recycled products are available from many sources including grocery, department, and hardware stores, so it is not necessary to shop at a specialty store to find them.