



Recycle. More. Often.



Cut it high and let it lie. It's better for your lawn!

**Household recycling and trash
MADE SIMPLE**



Welcome

In an effort to better communicate with residents, we're launching a newsletter full of helpful information about our program and ways to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. We hope you find this information useful and look forward to your feedback. Please share with your friends and neighbors. If they aren't recycling (or not as much as they could be) encourage them to do more. Recycling is a vital activity that helps reduce the need for landfill space. We hope you enjoy our newsletter.

Grasscycling for a Greener Lawn

Warmer weather is coming and with it comes green grass. The University of Maryland Extension Program recommends residents start preparing for the lawn mowing season that typically starts in April. This is the time of year to sharpen your blades and service the mower. Remember to sharpen your blades periodically throughout the mowing season as well. Dull mower blades will tear grass blades and lead to damage and disease problems. Dry white or tan grass tips are an indication that mower blades need sharpening.

Leave grass clippings where they lay. "Grasscycling" is the practice of leaving grass on the lawn after mowing and is an effective, environmentally friendly way to add organic matter and nitrogen to your soil, with an added benefit of eliminating the need to bag grass clippings. Grasscycling allows you to apply 25% LESS nitrogen fertilizer, which is often overused and results in excessive runoff and water pollution. If you decide to collect your grass clippings for disposal at the curb, remember to place them in paper lawn bags or a reusable container clearly marked with a large "X".



Recycling and Waste Reduction Division
2662 Riva Road, Ste. 490
Annapolis, MD 21401
410-222-7951

VISIT US ONLINE:
www.recyclemoreoften.com
www.aacounty.org/dpw/wastemanagement
www.facebook/annearundelrecycling

ISSUE FIVE

The height and frequency of mowing your lawn is also important to its overall health. Tall fescue and bluegrasses should be maintained at 3 inches for most of the growing season, while zoysia grass and Bermuda grass should be maintained at 2-3 inches. No matter what type of grass you have, try not to remove more than 1/3 of the grass blade with each mowing.

Grasscycling can be done with any conventional or mulching mower. If you have a rear bagger, simply remove it and drop the discharge chute cover down. Clippings will get held under the deck, re-chopped, and dropped on the lawn. When using a mower with a side discharge, simply cut your lawn in a pattern that allows the clippings to be spread uniformly across your lawn. Mulching mowers typically have more powerful engines because they are designed to re-chop the clippings and blow them into the lawn. No matter what mower you use, try to run the gas tank dry at the end of the season to avoid the need to dispose of unused gas. Happy mowing!



When you need help with a collection issue call Customer Service at 410-222-6100.

Mowing lawns to proper height can reduce weed problems by up to 80%.

A Better Choice for Plastic Bags

For the last few years the Recycling Division has encouraged residents to return plastic shopping bags to the grocery store instead of placing them in their curbside containers. As convenient and lightweight as these bags are for consumers, they can cause problems for recycling processors when sorting household recyclables like those collected in our curbside program. That's why the best option for recycling these bags is to return them to retailers who can collect the bags separately. Those bags will not go through sorting machinery at a recycling facility and will be a cleaner resource for the manufacturer to reuse.

When used to bundle household paper, plastic, metal, and glass recyclables these bags become caught up in the sorting machines which then have to be removed by hand. The equipment has to be shut down, stopping the recycling process while employees climb into the machinery and painstakingly remove bags wound around the moving parts. This can create both productivity and safety issues for our processor.



To help avoid processing problems, residents should place their recyclables in their yellow recycling containers loose, not secured in a bag. If you use plastic bags inside the home to collect recyclables, simply empty the bag instead of tying it shut when placing it in your container. You can then reuse that plastic bag if it remains clean or bundle it with your other bags when it is no longer usable. When you've collected several bundles of bags, return them to the grocery store or other retailer who collects them in a separate container.

Recycling Centers

Did you know the County's three Recycling Centers are a convenient place to recycle and dispose of items we don't accept at the curb? We accept these items:

- Lead-acid batteries
- Rubble
- Scrap metal
- Asphalt Shingles
- Tires
- Vinyl Siding
- Wood Pallets
- Textiles
- Propane Tanks
- Electronics
(No TVs or Monitors)

Be a Recycling Star!



Calling all Anne Arundel County high school aged artists, stylists, fashionistas, and recycling rock stars! PROM SEASON is here and the Anne Arundel County Department of Public Works' Recycling and Waste Reduction Division is seeking your creative concept for formal wear. Here's the catch - *the finished product must be made with recyclable materials!* For more information contact Kristin Lagana at 410-222-7967. The deadline for applications is April 28, 2017. Judging is May 18, 2017.



Got Cardboard?

Are you a business in Anne Arundel County looking for a better way to deal with cardboard? Are you filling your dumpster with valuable cardboard instead of recycling it? Businesses in Anne Arundel County can bring unlimited amounts of corrugated cardboard boxes to the Paper Recovery Facility at the Millersville Landfill free of charge. That material will be baled on site and transported to a recycling facility instead of getting landfilled.



Goodbye Chemicals!

Want to know the best way to rid your home of unwanted chemicals? Don't buy them! Simple ingredients like liquid soap, lemon, water, vinegar and baking soda can be used to replace household cleaners, disinfectants and polishes that may contain harsh chemicals. Window cleaner can be replaced with a teaspoon of vinegar or lemon juice in a quart of water. Mix a teaspoon of lemon juice with a pint of mineral or vegetable oil to replace furniture polish. Instead of using drain cleaner invest in a plunger or plumber's snake. Rugs can be deodorized by sprinkling carpets with baking soda, let it sit for 15 minutes, and vacuum.

If you must purchase something potentially hazardous, only buy what you need and use all that you buy. Pouring chemicals down the drain, on the ground, into storm drains, or placing them out with the trash is not the proper way to dispose of unused amounts. Consider donating unused chemicals to a friend, neighbor, or community organization; or bring those items to one of the County's drop off events, where they will be sorted and properly disposed of or recycled. See the 2017 HHW Schedule below for dates and locations.



Use vinegar as a natural disinfectant to replace harsh chemicals.

Over 90% of all products shipped in the US are shipped in corrugated boxes, which totals more than 400 billion square feet of cardboard.

2017 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Schedule

| Date | Location |
|--------------------|--|
| April 1, 2017 | Millersville Landfill, 389 Burns Crossing Road, Severn, MD 21144 |
| May 13, 2017 | Southern Recycling Center, 5400 Nutwell Sudley Road, Deale, MD 20571 |
| June 10, 2017 | Northern Recycling Center, 100 Dover Road, Glen Burnie, MD 21060 |
| July 22, 2017 | Millersville Landfill, 389 Burns Crossing Road, Severn, MD 21144 |
| September 16, 2017 | Southern Recycling Center, 5400 Nutwell Sudley Road, Deale, MD 20571 |
| October 21, 2017 | Northern Recycling Center, 100 Dover Road, Glen Burnie, MD 21060 |

Earth Day is
April 22nd!

