



## Proper Yard Waste Handling Improves Stormwater Runoff

We all have yard waste on our properties such as grass clippings, brush, leaves, plants, and tree limbs. Properly handling yard waste can significantly improve the drainage and quality of our stormwater runoff. Stormwater runoff is the rainwater that drains off your property and flows down gutters or ditches along your street and is collected in a storm drain during rainstorms. This runoff eventually flows to a nearby creek or stream.

Mishandling yard waste has a detrimental effect on the flow of rainwater to storm drains, and the quality of the water in our nearby creeks and streams. Stormwater pollution is one of the most widespread and challenging environmental problems we face. For example, organic waste (such as grass clippings) removes oxygen from the water as it decomposes, harming fish and other aquatic life.



The good news is you can help reduce street and property flooding in your neighborhood! You can also help improve the quality of water in the creeks and streams in Huber Heights! The following are some helpful tips for properly handling your yard waste.

### Proper Handling of Yard Waste:

We can all take actions to help minimize flooding issues and reduce stormwater pollution through the daily choices we make around our yards and properties.

- Avoid putting grass clipping, leaves, and other yard waste into storm drains in the street. This material will clog storm drains and pipes carrying runoff, which is a major cause of street flooding.
- In spring and summer, take your yard waste to the City's Yard Waste Transfer Site at 7225 Bridgewater Road. Yard waste debris is grinded into mulch at this location. The mulch produced is available to residents for pickup for free. See the link on the City's Web site for directions and hours of operation.
- Acceptable yard waste material to drop off includes brush, leaves, plants, and tree limbs that are no longer than 8 feet and no larger than 6 inches in diameter.



- The Montgomery County Solid Waste District Transfer and Recycling Facility also accepts yard waste. Contact Montgomery County directly for specific yard waste disposal requirements, and other recycling opportunities. A flyer with more information is linked on the Engineering/Stormwater Management page of the City's Web site.
- Other yard waste materials include trash, dirt, topsoil, grass, firewood, stumps, and construction materials of any kind. These materials need to be disposed of at a landfill. See the link for Republic Services on the City's Web site for removing these types of yard waste. Some of this yard waste can be placed at the curb for your weekly trash pickup. Check for the requirements of how the waste should be appropriately bundled. 
- In fall, the City has their annual leaf removal program. Look for more information on the leaf program, including guidelines and the pickup schedule for your neighborhood at the link on the City's Web site.
- Composting in your backyard is a resourceful way to recycle your yard waste and some selective food scraps you generate at home all year long. Composting involves minimal effort, equipment, expense, and expertise and can be fun. You save money by producing a free, high-quality soil amendment, called compost, which reduces your use of fertilizer and pesticides. You can use your compost to build healthier soil, prevent soil erosion, conserve water, and improve plant growth in your garden and yard. It is a great way to reuse your grass clippings and leaves. For more information about composting at home go to the following link: [Composting At Home | US EPA](#) 
- Always pick up after your pet. Pet waste contains harmful bacteria and is a major contributor to stormwater pollution. Do not place pet waste in your composting bin or in yard materials piles.

### Sources:

- United States Environmental Protection Agency Webpage at [Composting At Home | US EPA](#).
- Google Images.