

## Compost Materials

The following materials **can** be used in the creation of a compost pile:

Bread  
Coffee grounds  
Egg shells  
Fruit and fruit peels  
Garden wastes  
Grass clippings  
Wood chips  
Leaves  
Shredded paper  
Sawdust  
Sod  
Tea leaves  
Vegetables

The following material should **never** be used in a compost pile:

Bones  
Cat Manure  
Cheese  
Chicken  
Dog Manure  
Fat  
Fish Scraps  
Meat  
Milk  
Noxious weeds  
Oils

## Notes from EPA

Yard trimmings accounted for nearly half the municipal waste eliminated or diverted through source reduction programs in 2000 (USEPA, 2002). Source reduction has been a successful component of municipal waste management, and is a major reason why landfill capacity at a national level remains relatively constant. In fact, source reduction is estimated to have prevented a 25 percent increase in solid waste in 2000. As of 2000, 34 states had more than 10 years of landfill capacity remaining, 12 had five to 10 years, and 2 had less than five years of capacity remaining. (USEPA, 2002).

Yard clippings can be managed by reapplying them to lawns, or by composting at home or at community composting facilities. **Reapplying clippings to yards, reduces solid waste and can decrease the need for fertilizer and water by adding nutrients and limiting evaporation.**

Mowing the lawn without a collection bag helps grass to be reapplied without a lot of effort. Yard waste can also be composted and reapplied to improve water retention, add nutrients, reduce erosion and prevent storm water pollution.

# GRASS CLIPPINGS AND LAWN WASTE



Proper Disposal Methods

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Compost Materials



Storm Water Management  
Educational Series

## Mobile City Ordinance

Section 17-14 of the Mobile Code of Ordinances states that the following activity is unlawful:

*“Disposing of leaves, dirt or other landscape debris into the city MS4 (municipal separate storm sewer system) or causing leaves, dirt, or other debris to be deposited in or upon a street, alley, sidewalk, parkway, or other public right-of-way.”*

### Remember....

Storm drains, inlets, ditches, streets, and other parts of the storm drainage system **are not** part of the sanitary or sewer system. Sanitary sewer waters are treated, storm sewer waters are not. **They discharge directly to the creek, which leads to the river or the Gulf of Mexico where you and your children may swim.**

### What is the problem?

Lawns typically edged around sidewalks, drive ways, roads, etc., can result in grass clippings being spread outside the lawn area. If these grass clippings are swept or blown onto the road, driveway or storm drain, they can cause storm water pollution and eventually pollute our drinking water sources or water bodies used for recreation.

### To report a clogged ditch or drain or to report illegal dumping, call:

City of Mobile 311 or 208-5311

OR

Mobile County Dept. of Environmental Enforcement 574-STOP (7867)

## Why should grass clippings, yard wastes and other wastes not be discharged into storm drains?

It is **illegal** to dump, sweep, rake or blow grass clippings and yard waste into drains, ditches and streets.

When it rains, the waste is washed into the storm drainage system and gets **clogged**.

When storm drains, ditches and streets become clogged due to excessive sediment/debris build up, **flooding occurs**.

**Expensive** equipment and labor are required to find and remove clogs in drainage systems and ditches.

Yard and household wastes **suffocate plants** growing on the creek banks and in ditches.

Exposed dirt or barren ground next to storm inlets, drains, or ditches are potentially damaging during rainstorms as it **erodes** the dirt/soil, washing them into the storm drainage system.

Dirt can clog spawning areas for fish and cover the water channel floor resulting in fish food being covered and the fish **unable to sustain life**.

Also, if grass clippings reach creeks, streams, rivers and bays, they contribute to **sediment buildup**.

Sediment buildup in creeks and streams will cause **environmental pollution**.

## How can I help?

If you see a clogged ditch or drain or **illegal dumping**, please report it.

**Don't** blow, sweep or dump grass clippings and yard waste into streets, ditches, drive ways, or storm drains. Blow or sweep **away** from roads, ditches, gutters, and areas of run off.

Bag grass clippings and leaves for landfill disposal or **use other proper disposal methods** like composting.

**Use** composted material to reduce the use and cost of fertilizers.

**Don't** overuse pesticides, herbicides, or fertilizers on your lawn. **Don't** apply these treatments if the forecast calls for rain.

**Don't** hose sand or soil into the gutter.

**Avoid** mulch cutting on steep slopes – this will cause run-off into storm drainage systems.

**Seed** and mulch exposed soil.

If you see your neighbor or someone in your neighborhood blowing grass clippings onto the street or storm drains, tell them it causes storm water pollution.

**Ensure** your lawn maintenance contractor operates in accordance with City Code.

**Get involved!** Share the information in this brochure with friends, family and neighbors.

**Don't** over water your lawn. Try to minimize run-off into the storm drain.

**Pick up** pet waste and dispose of it in a toilet or garbage bin.