

WATER CONSERVATION – TIPS AND SUGGESTIONS

If the dry weather is getting you down, take heart. There are lots of little things you can do to conserve water.

For example, you could try the following:

- 1) Take a “Navy” shower. Get wet, turn off the water, lather up, turn on the water again to rinse.
- 2) Use the sink to shave.
- 3) Don't let the water run while you brush your teeth.
- 4) Use the dishwasher and washing machine only for full loads.
- 5) Don't use the toilet as a garbage can; dispose of tissues and floor sweepings in the trash.
- 6) Trade in your kitchen sink disposal for a compost pile.
- 7) Keep a bucket in your shower and use the collected water to water plants.
- 8) Make sure your sprinklers are aimed at your plants, not your sidewalks.
- 9) Don't toss water that you've used to cook with. Use it to water your plants.



COMPOSTING: A HOW-TO

Materials needed:

- A large plastic garbage can with a lid.
- An electric drill or a screwdriver.
- Green and brown waste (grass clippings, leaves), organic materials (vegetable peelings, coffee grounds, eggshells), horse and/or cow manure. **Do not use citrus fruits, which can slow down the decomposition process, or dog or cat droppings, which can carry disease-producing organisms.**

Drill several ventilation holes in the lid of the garbage can. Inside the garbage can, layer your materials: a layer of dirt, a layer of vegetable peelings, a layer of manure, a layer of leaves, grass clippings. Add water so that the mixture is moist but not wet. Put the cover on the garbage can, and let the materials inside decay. You can add additional layers as needed to dispose of food scraps.

Helpful hints:

- Occasionally, stir the mixture with a garden spade or other such implement. Add a little water if the mix is very dry.
- Keep it covered to deter animals from feasting on your compost.
- You can buy bags of manure at hardware

stores and home improvement centers. If you have access to a horse or cow, you can “harvest” your own. However, the manure needs to be dry and well-rotted, rather than fresh.

- Don't compost animal products such as meat scraps or grease. Also, don't compost cat litter – dispose of litter and dog waste in sealed plastic bags in your garbage.
- Patience is the key to good compost. After several months of waiting and stirring, you'll have fantastic soil for your backyard garden or potted plants.

Composting Tips ▶

Adding dry leaves or bulky plants...

Helps ensure that the compost pile gets proper aeration.

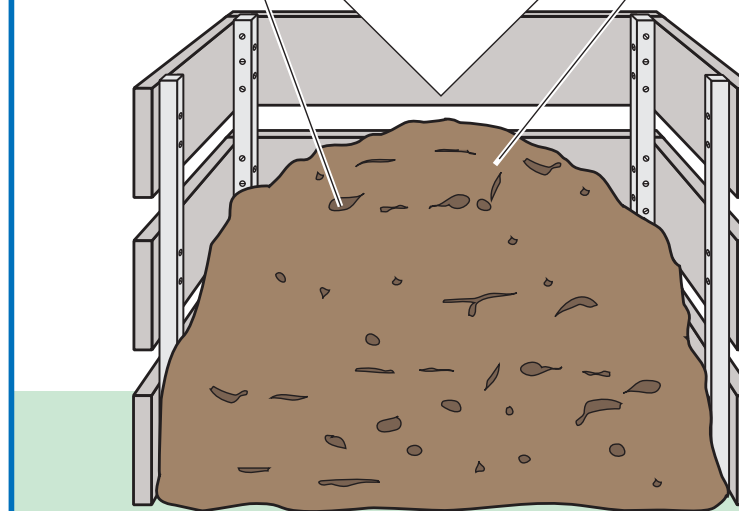
Green, leafy waste
adds nitrogen.

Woody materials
add carbon.

Composting Your Yard Waste

Six Good Reasons to Compost...

- 1** Many landfills don't accept leaves and yard waste.
- 2** Burning is not permitted in many communities.
- 3** Composting may be the easiest way for homeowners to dispose of yard waste.
- 4** Low cost, low impact.
- 5** Composting can be done year-round.
- 6** It is a good way to reuse organic matter from lawns, landscapes and gardens.



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RAIN BARRELS: KEEP WATER FROM GOING DOWN THE DRAIN

Interested in capturing the rainwater that flows through your gutters? Why not build a rain barrel?

Materials Needed:

- A 55-gallon food-safe plastic barrel
- Teflon thread tape
- Silicone caulk
- A 3/4" water spigot
- A 3/4" nut or 3/4" female PVC adapter that will thread onto the (non-hose side) of the spigot
- Rubber washer large enough to slip over threaded end of spigot
- Standard 1 1/4" or 1 1/2" lavatory drain without overflow opening
- Enough window screen to cover the top of the barrel
- Duct tape
- Plumbers putty
- A drill, 1" hole saw, and jigsaw or drywall cutout saw

Instructions:

Main Outlet:

- 1) Cut the top off of the barrel, or if the barrel has a lid, cut a large hole in the lid, leaving the threaded area intact. Use a jigsaw or drywall cutout saw to cut off the top of barrel or hole in the lid.
- 2) Wash barrel out carefully.
- 3) Using the hole saw, drill a hole in the side of the barrel about 4-5 inches from the bottom. This hole should fit the water spigot attachment as closely as possible.
- 4) Insert the water spigot into the barrel.
- 5) Wrap thread tape around the threads of the spigot inside barrel.
- 6) Slip rubber washer over threads of spigot and push against inside wall of barrel. If no washer is available, squeeze silicone caulk against the inside wall of the barrel where the spigot comes through.
- 7) Screw nut or threaded PVC female adapter onto back of spigot and tighten until it is snug against the inside of barrel wall or washer.

- 8) Apply more caulk sealant around the edge of the nut or threaded adapter to form a seal between the barrel wall and the nut/ adapter.
- 9) Apply caulk around the spigot edge on the outside of the barrel to seal the spigot on that end.

Overflow valve:

- 1) Cut or drill a hole large enough to accommodate the lavatory drain in the side of the barrel about 3-4 inches from the top.
- 2) Apply plumber's putty to the underside of the flange on the lavatory drain. Insert drain into the hole in the barrel wall from inside the barrel, so that the flange is against the inside of the barrel's wall.
- 3) Tighten nut on outside of barrel to firmly attach lavatory drain.

Top of the Barrel:

- Cut a section of window screen large enough to fit over the top of the barrel.
- Stretch the screen over the top, and tape it to the sides using duct tape. If using a barrel with a lid, hold the screen taught while reattaching the lid. Once secure, the lid will hold the screen in place.
- Position below gutter.



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