

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- ✂ Remove the bag from your lawnmower or use a mulching lawnmower. Leave the clippings in place to add organic matter and recycle nutrients, and avoid having to dispose of the grass clippings.
- ✂ Mark your calendar every spring and fall to schedule a yard waste management day by either composting or disposing of yard waste properly.
- ✂ Drop off your yard waste at the town's recycling center for composting.
- ✂ Start backyard composting keeping yard waste away from streams, rivers and wetlands. See: https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/waste/swrtas/documents/compost_flier.pdf for a free "how-to" brochure.
- ✂ NEVER dispose of grass, leaves or clippings in or near storm drains or roadside drainage channels, streams, rivers or wetlands. Keeping these drains and channels free flowing will prevent local flooding!

DISPOSE OF YARD WASTE PROPERLY

Yard waste can be disposed of at



**RAKE IT,
LEAVE IT OR
REMOVE IT**

***What to do with
your leaves,
grass clippings
and yard waste***

OUR COMMUNITY CARES

Our community cares about clean water and is doing its part to help prevent water pollution in local waterways. This outreach message helps our community meet US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requirements to share pollution prevention information with its residents.

{insert local contact information}

Distributed by the Town of

NEW HAMPSHIRE

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Department of Environmental Services 603-271-7889



WHY DOES IT MATTER?

You Choose - *your leaves and grass clippings can be a valuable resource OR a source of water pollution.*

As a resource . . .

Mulched leaves or grass clippings on your lawn add valuable nutrients and organic matter.

Grass clippings provide a source of slow-release nutrients reducing the amount of lawn fertilizer needed by at least half or none. A thin layer of leaves will break down and add much needed organic matter to plant beds.

Composting leaves and grass clippings save money.

Compost is natural recycling. Compost can be used as a top dressing on your lawn or garden beds reducing or eliminating the need for fertilizer and mulch.



Drawing Courtesy David M. Carroll

As a source of water pollution . . .

Decaying leaves and grass kill critters in streams, rivers, lakes, ponds, and wetlands.

Leaves and grass clippings decompose in water and wetlands by using the oxygen that other organisms such as dragonfly larvae, crabs, and fish need to live.

Yard waste on stream banks smothers natural vegetation.

Leaves or grass dumped near banks, shorelines and wetlands block sunlight and smother the natural plant life that provide food and cover to animals such as turtles, ducks, chipmunks, and deer.

Yard waste dumped near waterbodies contributes to stream algae and odors.

Seepage from yard waste piled on or near banks and shorelines will slowly make its way into the water. Algae then grow and form foul-smelling, green mats on the water surface.

Yard waste dumped in or near wetlands or surface waters is against the law!

In an effort to protect wetlands and surface waters, the NH legislature passed a law that prohibits filling streams and wetlands with waste materials, including yard waste. RSA 482-A:3