



## *For more information*

*Or to purchase compost bins, call  
Recycling Connections  
Corporation, 345-5972.*

*Information is also available online:*

*[www4.uwm.edu/shwec](http://www4.uwm.edu/shwec)*

*[www.compostguide.com](http://www.compostguide.com)*

*[www.epa.gov/compost](http://www.epa.gov/compost)*

*[www.nrcs.usda.gov/FEATURE/  
backyard/compost.html](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/FEATURE/backyard/compost.html)*

*[www.nrcs.usda.gov/Feature/  
backyard/mulching.html](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Feature/backyard/mulching.html)*

*[www.gardenguides.com/  
how-to/tipstechniques/composting/  
mulch-noframe.asp](http://www.gardenguides.com/how-to/tipstechniques/composting/mulch-noframe.asp)*



Portage County  
Solid Waste Department

600 Moore Road  
Plover, WI 54467

Phone: 715-345-5969  
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[www.co.portage.wi.us](http://www.co.portage.wi.us)

# *Make your yard work for you!*



*Nothing in nature is exhausted in its first use—  
Ralph Waldo Emerson*

# How do I handle my yard materials?

With the recent closure of the Portage County Landfill, the Solid Waste Department is no longer able to accept yard materials, including leaves, grass clippings, brush and branches.

The department is currently exploring options to help area residents with these materials.

This is a great opportunity to make a difference for the environment by starting with your own backyard.

## Composting

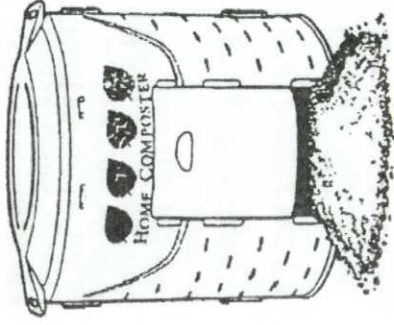
Composting is a natural recycling process using leaves, grass clippings, and other lawn and garden materials.

Microorganisms interact with these materials and help break them down.

Fortified with nutrients, the resulting compost can be used as mulch or a soil amendment in as little as 3 to 6 months.

Composting also does the following:

- Increases crop and flower yields.
- Prevents soil erosion.
- Suppresses some plant diseases.
- Reduces the amount of fertilizer needed, thereby saving money and the environment.
- Improves soil structure.



## Mulching

Clippings and mulch also block weeds, protect plant roots, and prevent soil erosion and compaction.

Add grass clippings without pesticides to your garden and around trees and shrubs. Keep away from trunks.

Mow leaves, and leave them on your lawn to help feed it. Leaves contain nitrogen, a natural fertilizer. Keeping leaves on your lawn all season is the

same as one fertilizer application. They won't cause thatch either. You can also chop your leaves with a mower or shredder before composting to help them decompose more quickly.



Spread leaves over your garden, on garden paths or around bushes and trees. Remember, stay away from trunks.

Leaves contain carbon, phosphorus and potassium — all essential nutrients for plants.

