

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- ✂ Take the bag off your lawnmower or opt for a mulching lawnmower. Let the clippings remain to enhance organic matter and recycle nutrients, eliminating the need for grass clippings disposal.
- ✂ Drop off your yard waste at the **Yard Waste Compost Site** located at **755 Walden Street** composting. Call **978-318-3240** for more information.
- ✂ Start backyard composting (away from surface waters). See: <https://www.concordma.gov/449/Backyard-Composting> for more information.
- ✂ Avoid any disposal of leaves or clippings in the vicinity of storm drains, drainage channels (where rain or snowmelt flows), wetlands, or bodies of water at all costs!



OUR COMMUNITY CARES

Our community is committed to maintaining clean water and actively contributes to preventing water pollution in our local waterways. This outreach message assists our community in fulfilling the requirements of the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to share pollution prevention information with our residents.



Distributed by the

The Town of Concord, MA

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 . . .

GOOD

Mulching leaves or grass clippings onto your lawn contributes essential nutrients and organic matter.

Grass clippings offer a slow-release nutrient source, significantly reducing the necessity for lawn fertilizer, sometimes even eliminating it altogether. Similarly, a light layer of leaves will decompose and enrich plant beds with crucial organic matter.

Composting leaves and grass clippings is a cost-effective choice.

Compost represents a form of natural recycling, with compost serving as an excellent top dressing for your lawn or garden beds, ultimately reducing or potentially eliminating the need for both fertilizer and mulch.



As a source of water pollution . . .

BAD

The decomposition of leaves and grass in water bodies like streams, rivers, lakes, ponds, and wetlands can harm aquatic life.

As leaves and grass clippings break down in these environments, they consume the oxygen required by other organisms like dragonfly larvae, crabs, and fish for their survival.

Yard waste along stream banks can stifle native vegetation.

Leaves or grass discarded near the banks, shorelines, and wetlands obstruct sunlight and suffocate the indigenous plant life that serves as a vital source of food and shelter for animals like 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.