What to do with Grass Clippings?

Compost

Put Out with Trash

Mulch into the Lawn

Photos Courtesy of SWCD staff.

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What to Do with Yard Waste

cuyahoga SOIL&WATER conservation district

Where Does Stormwater Go?

Yard Waste is Not Good for Our Storm Drains or Creeks!

We all know that it is not acceptable to dump tires, machine parts, plastics and other unnatural trash into our waterways. But many still believe it's okay to put yard debris like grass and leaves onto a streambank, in a storm drain, or into a ditch.

Well, when it comes to dumping, even organic yard debris doesn't "cut it." While leaves will naturally fall into the water, we need to be mindful not to upset nature's balance.

Leaves and grass clippings from our maintained landscapes should never be dumped or piled in and around waterways or storm drains.

Yard waste:

- is the 2nd largest category of all discarded trash.
- decomposes and uses up the oxygen in streams, makes streams smell bad, and it looks unsightly.
- nutrients can lead to algae blooms and fish kills.
- can obstruct flow and clog downstream culverts, leading to localized flooding and erosion problems.
- piled on streambanks can choke out plants that serve to stabilize and prevent erosion.

Yard waste should be composted or set out with the trash according to your community's yard waste pick-up guidelines.

Remember – Only Rain Down the Drain!

Where to Learn More

www.cuyahogaswcd.org/programs/presentations-and-speakers-bureau

Green Yards and Healthy Homes Webinar

Watershed Management

www.cuyahogaswcd.org/what-we-do/watershed-management