Curbside Yard Trim Collection

How to recycle…

Howard County collects yard trim from many homes in the county. Contact us to determine service availability.

- Unlimited quantities of grass, leaves and light brush can be put out for collection on your recycling day. Items must be at the curb by **6 a.m.** the day of collection.
- Set your yard trim out in reusable open-top containers or paper bags.
- Tie brush and branches together with string or twine. Bundles may not exceed 18″ in diameter and 4′ in length.
- Yard trim will not be collected as trash during the yard trim collection season in areas that receive curbside yard trim service.
- Remember the **40 pound weight** limit for cans, bags and bundles.
- **Yard trim material in plastic bags will not be collected.**

How will holidays affect my collection?

There will be no collection on the following County holidays:

New Year's Day
Memorial Day
Independence Day
Labor Day
Thanksgiving Day
Christmas Day

For a holiday listed above and the rest of that week, **ALL** trash, recycling and yard trim collections will slide to the next day. For a chart of your holiday collections, visit HowardCountyMD.gov/HolidaySchedule

YES - We will collect:

- Grass
- Leaves
- Hedge clippings/light brush
- Small limbs or branches less than 4″ in diameter and 4′ in length
- Seed pods (pine cones, sour gum balls, etc)
- Straw/hay
- Bamboo

NO - We can't collect:

- Yard trim placed in plastic bags, recycling carts, or wheelbarrows
- Logs over 4″ in diameter and 4′ in length
- Bushes with root bases attached
- Yard trim mixed with trash or miscellaneous materials, such as:
  - Plastic/clay pots
  - Fruits, vegetables or nuts
  - Dirt, rocks, sod or sand
  - Metal wire or fencing
  - Glass, pottery or stone

Where to place items for collection

- Single family homeowners must place items within five (5) feet of the nearest public road fronting their homes.
- Place open-top container, paper bags and bundles away from mail boxes on the opposite side of the driveway, if possible.
- Residents in townhome communities with head-in parking areas are required to group items in designated areas. Do not block mailboxes or fire hydrants.

Did You Know?

- The truck that picks up yard trim may arrive earlier or later than the blue bin recycling truck.
- Yard trim is composted or mulched locally.
- Yard trim is accepted year-round at the Alpha Ridge Landfill from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday-Saturday. Material in plastic bags will not be accepted.
- Many local retailers sell paper yard trim bags and reusable containers.

Why No Plastic Bags?

No regional yard trim processors accept plastic bags. Plastic does not decompose and reduces the quality of the finished compost and mulch.

Residents must use reusable open-top containers, paper bags or bundle material.

Yard Trim Recycling Options for ALL County Residents

Howard County Master Gardeners: Rake and Take Program

Match yourself (Raker) with someone who needs material for their compost (Taker).

For details, call 410-313-2707

Compost: DIY Soil Amendment

Get Started: Free workshops and compost bins are available to residents. Visit HowardCountyRecycles.org for details.

Grasscycle: Cut it High and Let it Lie

Return valuable nutrients to the soil and leave grass clippings on your lawn! Grasscycling reduces fertilizer need, improving the health of your lawn and the Chesapeake Bay.

For more information contact:

Howard County Bureau of Environmental Services 410-313-6444
HowardCountyRecycles.org

Howard County Master Gardeners 410-313-2707
extension.umd.edu/mg

Howard County Forestry Board
HowardCountyForestryBoard.org

Live Green Howard 410-313-0700
LiveGreenHoward.com

Christmas Tree Collection

December 26 through the middle of January

Place clean, undecorated trees out for collection on your yard trim day.

YES - We will collect:

Whole trees under 6 feet or trees over 6 feet that are cut in half.

NO - We can't collect:

- Trees with metal or plastic bases
- Trees with tinsel, icicles or any other ornaments or materials
- Trees wrapped in plastic bags
- Artificial trees (please recycle with scrap metal at Alpha Ridge Landfill)

Other options:

- Merry Mulch Drop-off locations, including designated County parks and the Alpha Ridge Landfill Woodwaste Area. Check online or call for a complete list of sites.
- Check local nurseries for tree chipping services.

Revised 3/19

Yard Trim

Your Guide to Howard County's Yard Trim Collection Service

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410-313-6444
www.HowardCountyRecycles.org