

Curbside Yard Trim Collection

April 1 through the third week in January

Howard County collects curbside yard trim from homes in most areas on County roads and some approved private roads.

How to recycle...

- 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 containers or in paper or plastic bags.
- Tie brush and branches together with string or twine. Bundles may not exceed 18" in diameter and 4' in length.
- Yard trim may not be put out 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.

How will holidays affect my collection?

There will be no collection on the following County holidays:

New Year's Day	Labor Day
Memorial Day	Thanksgiving Day
Independence 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.htm

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:

- Bushes with root bases attached
- Logs
- Yard trim placed in recycling carts and cardboard boxes
- 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 cans, bags, etc. 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 your yard trim may arrive earlier or later than the other recycling truck.
- Material collected is composted or mulched and residents can purchase the finished products at the Alpha Ridge Landfill.
- Yard trim is accepted year-round at the Alpha Ridge Landfill Woodwaste Area. Plastic bags are restricted, however reusable containers and paper bags are welcome.
- Grass clippings placed in plastic bags often create condensation, which can leak or spill. Try grasscycling instead.

Paper Yard Trim Bags

Howard County encourages residents to use paper bags or reusable containers for yard trim instead of plastic bags.

Why Paper Bags?

- Paper bags decompose naturally with yard trim while plastic bags do not. Plastics reduce the quality of the finished compost.
- Paper bags can hold the same amount as plastic bags, but won't puncture as easily.
- Paper bags can stay open for easy filling.



Questions?

Howard County Bureau of Environmental Services
410-313-6444
Howard County Master Gardeners
410-313-2707
University of MD Home and Garden Info Center
1-800-243-2507

Yard Trim Recycling Options for ALL County Residents

Rake and Take Program

Match yourself (Raker) with someone who needs material for their compost bin (Taker). For more details, call the Howard County Master Gardeners at 410-313-2707.



Drop-off

Recycle your yard trim at the Alpha Ridge Landfill from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday–Saturday.

Proof of Howard County residency required.

Take yard trim recycling to the next level!

Grasscycle

Save time, energy and money by leaving grass clippings on your lawn to return nutrients to the soil and improve lawn quality. Grasscycling is recommended by lawn care professionals and helps the Chesapeake Bay by eliminating fertilizer needs.

Compost

Mix leaves, grass clippings and vegetable scraps together and watch the decomposition process turn these items into a natural soil amendment.

Compost demonstrations are offered by the Master Gardeners in the spring, summer and fall. **Free compost bins** are available to Howard County residents at 6751 Columbia Gateway Drive, Suite 514 and Alpha Ridge Landfill.

Christmas Tree Collection

December 26 through the third week in January

Place clean, undecorated trees out for collection on your recycling 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.



Yard Trim

Your Guide to Howard County's Yard Trim Collection Service



Bureau of Environmental Services
6751 Columbia Gateway Drive
Suite 514, Columbia, MD 21046
410-313-6444

www.HowardCountyRecycles.org