

Detroit Water and Sewerage Department Data Sheet

Outdoor

SPRING

Cleaning

Spring is when homeowners take advantage of warmer weather to clean up and spruce up their homes. Instead of setting the yard waste (grass clippings, brush, leaves, plant and tree trimmings) at the curb to be picked up with the rest of the trash, put this valuable free resource to work. The following tips are just some suggestions to consider:

- Instead of bagging grass clippings, leave them where they fall. The cuttings are a rich source of organic materials that will help contribute to a beautiful lawn, while reducing the need for manufactured fertilizers.
- You can make a good mulch or compost from grass clippings, leaves, wood chips, and other readily available items.
 - Mulch is dry organic matter that's spread on top of the soil, where it helps to keep soil moist and helps germinate new seedlings by stabilizing soil temperature, while suppressing weed growth.
 - Compost is moist, partially decomposed organic matter. It is worked into the soil to make it more fertile.
 - To learn more about making compost and mulch, visit the Website for Michigan State University's Extension Service at www.msue.msu.edu/. Valuable information is also available from the Clinton River Watershed Council at: www.crowc.org/programs/education/stormwatertips/compost.html.
- Pick up after your pets - flush it down the toilet or put it in the trash. Nearly one in five U.S. households own, at least, one dog. Dog waste contains e-coli, which can make you sick, and get into storm water flow from lawn runoff. Dogs contribute up to 30-percent of water pollution in streams. Most beach closings are due to high e-coli levels.

■ Source: American Pet Products Manufacturers Association

DWSD supplies high-quality drinking water to 4.3 million people who live and work in Detroit and 125 other communities in southeast Michigan. The Department provides wastewater services to three million people who live and work in Detroit and 76 other southeast Michigan communities.

