

CURBY'S TIPS FOR THE 3 "R"s

Reduce waste

- ✦ Buy in bulk
- ✦ Avoid items with excess packaging
- ✦ Take a lunch box instead of paper bags
- ✦ Write on both sides of paper
- ✦ Use cloth napkins
- ✦ Repair broken toys instead of throwing them away

Reuse

- ✦ Give away old toys and clothes to friends, family, or charities
- ✦ Make jars into flower pots and pencil holders



- ✦ Reuse plastic bags
- ✦ Make wrapping paper out of old newspapers

Recycle

- ✦ Recycle cans, plastic bottles, paper, and cardboard
- ✦ Research other items that can be recycled—like computers and cell phones
- ✦ Buy products made from recycled items
- ✦ Use recycled paper

Visit www.curby.org for tips, information, contests, and more!



Montgomery County Solid Waste District

Facts for Kids



Recycling Resource Center
2550 Sandridge Drive
Moraine, OH 45439
www.mcswd.org

Printed on Recycled Paper



WHAT IS LITTER?
OHIO LITTER LAWS
LUCKY'S TIPS
COMPOSTING FOR KIDS
HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE
CURBY'S TIPS

look inside



What is Litter?

PEOPLE-made
PEOPLE-used
MISPLACED SOLID WASTE

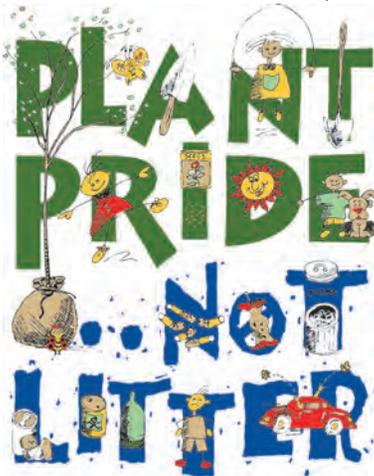


Seven Sources of Litter

- ✦ Material thrown, dropped, or blown from cars
- ✦ Material thrown or dropped by pedestrians
- ✦ Trucks with loads improperly tied down or improperly loaded
- ✦ Business and commercial trash cans and dumpsters
- ✦ Loading docks and commercial storage areas
- ✦ Construction or demolition sites
- ✦ Household trash cans and trash bags

People Tend to Litter Where

- ✦ Someone is paid to pick it up
- ✦ Litter has already accumulated
- ✦ There is no sense of ownership



Remember the Rules

1. **ALWAYS** have an adult assist you when you handle hazardous waste.
2. Buy only what you need. Use products up or give the extra to someone who can use it.
3. Read the label. Follow use and disposal directions carefully.
4. Whenever possible, use non-hazardous alternatives; e.g., vinegar and baking soda.
5. Participate in Montgomery County's Household Hazardous Waste Programs.
6. **DO NOT** mix hazardous materials at home.
7. **NEVER** pour a hazardous substance down a street drain or onto the ground.
8. For your safety, never breathe fumes from hazardous materials.
9. If you must store household hazardous materials, follow label directions and store out of reach of children and pets.

Call (937) 225-4999 for information or visit www.curby.org



Trash Talk

Litter—misplaced solid waste

Recycle—to process something old into something new

Reduce—to make less of something

Reuse—to use something over again in the same or new way

Landfill—an area where solid waste is disposed of by burying it between layers of dirt

HEY KIDS! Have your school, day care, Scouts group, or other organization contact the Recycling Resource Center at (937) 225-4999 for more information on the following **FREE** programs:

- ✦ Facility tours
- ✦ Guest speakers
- ✦ Special presentations and programs
- ✦ Contests
- ✦ Waste assessments
- ✦ Teacher workshops
- ✦ And much more!

Household Hazardous Waste

Did You Know...

- ✦ Many products we use at home may be hazardous if not handled and disposed of properly.
- ✦ Hazardous refers to dangerous substances that are likely to cause harm to the environment or to humans.
- ✦ Household hazardous wastes can be put into four categories:
 1. Toxic (poisonous)
 2. Flammable
 3. Reactive (explosive)
 4. Corrosive (substances that rapidly eat into or dissolve away what they touch)

Earth stewardship
begins with you!



Potentially Hazardous Household Materials

- | | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| ✦ Acid | ✦ Bug spray | ✦ Grease solvent | ✦ Paint thinner |
| ✦ Aerosols | ✦ Disinfectants | ✦ Lead items | ✦ Pesticides/
Herbicides |
| ✦ Ammonia | ✦ Drain opener | ✦ Lye | ✦ Pool chemicals |
| ✦ Antifreeze | ✦ Enamel paint
for models | ✦ Mercury | ✦ Propane bottles |
| ✦ Bathroom
cleaners | ✦ Fertilizers | ✦ Mothballs | ✦ Powdered
bleaches |
| ✦ Batteries | ✦ Gasoline/Kerosene | ✦ Motor oil | ✦ Rat poison |
| ✦ Bleach | ✦ Glass and
window cleaner | ✦ Oven cleaner | ✦ Stains/Varnishes |
| ✦ Brake fluid | | ✦ Paint | |

Ohio Litter Laws

- ✦ Under Ohio law, litter is any kind of trash, intentional or unintentional, thrown or dropped by a person on public property, or on private property not owned by the individual, or in the State's waterways
- ✦ The driver of a motor vehicle can be held responsible for litter discarded onto the roadway by passengers
- ✦ It is illegal to drive or move a vehicle on any highway with a load that is not securely fastened or covered
- ✦ Littering is a serious offense which may be punishable by a fine up to \$1000 or 60 days in jail



LUCKY'S LITTLE LITTER TIPS

Don't Litter

- ✦ Throw your trash in a garbage can
- ✦ Plan a clean up day at your school, park or neighborhood



- ✦ Snip 6-pack rings to protect animals
- ✦ Use a litter bag in your car
- ✦ Pick up litter on the ground
- ✦ Don't let friends litter

Plant Pride Not Litter

- ✦ Keep trash cans and recycling bins covered so items don't blow away
- ✦ Adopt an area to keep clean
- ✦ Join the Great American Cleanup

Do All You Can

- ✦ Plant flowers and trees to beautify your yard or school
- ✦ Properly dispose of your hazardous waste
- ✦ Participate in local environmental contests
- ✦ Call (937) 225-4999 to pick up supplies for a litter cleanup

Celebrate Earth Day everyday!

Biodegradable Facts

- ✦ Paper biodegrades in 2-4 weeks
- ✦ A cotton rug biodegrades in 1-5 months
- ✦ Rope biodegrades in 3-14 months
- ✦ A wool sock biodegrades in 1 year
- ✦ A painted wooden stake biodegrades in 13 years
- ✦ A tin can biodegrades in 100 years
- ✦ An aluminum can biodegrades in 200-500 years
- ✦ A plastic 6-pack holder biodegrades in 450 years
- ✦ A glass bottle biodegrades in an undetermined number of years



What is Composting?

Composting is nature's way of recycling organic materials. Organic materials are things that were once part of living things, like leaves, banana peels, and apple cores. A compost pile is made by mixing yard waste, vegetable scraps, and fruit scraps together. Once they are decomposed or rotted, a rich dark soil called humus is produced. This soil can be used to mulch and fertilize plants. Composting is a way to reduce the amount of yard and food waste going to a landfill.

Composting

What Things Can Be Put into a Compost Pile?

- ✦ Leaves
- ✦ Grass clippings
- ✦ Straw
- ✦ Fruit scraps
- ✦ Sawdust
- ✦ Coffee grounds, tea bags
- ✦ Paper towels & napkins
- ✦ Paper plates
- ✦ Small plants
- ✦ Wood chips
- ✦ Vegetable scraps

What Things Should Not Be Put into a Compost Pile?

- ✦ Meat scraps
- ✦ Bones
- ✦ Fat or cooking oil
- ✦ Peanut butter
- ✦ Cheese
- ✦ Dead animals
- ✦ Fish scraps
- ✦ Pet droppings

These items can cause a bad odor, attract pests, and cause harmful bacteria to grow.

How Can I Start Composting?

Talk to your parents about starting a compost pile or bin. Call the Recycle Hotline at (937) 225-4999 or visit our facility. The Recycling Resource Center has a Resource Library with brochures, books, and videos about composting that can be checked out by your teacher or parents.

What Makes the Material Rot?

Decomposers (small creatures like bacteria, worms, beetles, and small plants like fungi and enzymes) go to work and break down the structure of the material. These animals and plants use the composting materials for food. Visit www.curby.org to learn what decomposers are present in a compost pile.

Can a Good Compost Pile Work in a Closed Area?

A compost pile that is completely closed cannot get the moisture and circulation of air that small plants and animals need to survive. They need air and water to stay alive so they can do their work.

What is Vermicomposting?

Vermicomposting is composting with worms. This type of composting pile is contained in a closed container with vents. This container is good for people who do not have a yard large enough for an outdoor compost pile. This composting method is started with shredded paper and red "wiggler" worms. Food scraps in controlled amounts are added to the bin so the worms can eat it. As the food passes through the worm's body, a rich organic material is produced. After the worm excretes this material, it is called castings. Castings are very good fertilizer for plants.

For more information about vermicomposting, call the Recycle Hotline at (937) 225-4999 or go to www.curby.org

