



SUMMER WASTE & RECYCLING NEWS

Allied Waste Services of Mountain Home

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Composting—You can do it!

Mountain Home residents are great curbside recyclers... so great that we think you're ready for the next level in waste reduction—composting!

For years, composting has carried the reputation of being labor intensive and intimidating...but times have changed! Composting has achieved mainstream status and it's easier than you think!

Let's dive into the world of composting and debunk some of the myths.

• What is compost?

Compost is the dark, crumbly, earthy material resulting from the breakdown of organic matter. Millions of microorganisms and invertebrates (like bacteria, fungi and worms) help with this process.

• Why should you compost?

When we remove organic material from our properties, particularly grass and yard debris, we are robbing our soil of the ability to feed and replenish itself. This results in decreased plant health and disease resistance and increased use of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides which pollute our groundwater. By composting these organic materials, you create a nutrient-rich humus that improves soil quality and is one of the best natural fertiliz-



ers available.

• What goes into a compost pile?

Your yard and kitchen are great places to hunt for compost materials.



The yard mix is easy—add fallen leaves, grass and plant clippings and spent garden plants to your compost pile. But with kitchen scraps, you'll need a more watchful eye.

Fruit and vegetable peelings and scraps are great. Coffee grounds and leftover coffee also work well in compost piles by adding necessary moisture.



compost

• What should you leave out?

Meat, bones, fish, fats, oils, egg shells, dairy products like milk and cheese should NOT go into your compost pile. They cause odors and can attract dogs, raccoons and vermin.

Food scraps that contain



any of these contaminants should also be avoided.

• How do you make a low-cost compost bin?

1. Wire mesh composting bins are versatile and easy to construct. A 36" wide x 12' long piece of poultry wire or hardware cloth can be rolled into a circle and tied with four metal or plastic clips. Hardware cloth is sturdy enough to stand alone, but poultry wire bins should be supported with three or four stakes. Be sure to clip or file-off any sharp edges that may poke or scratch hands.

These bins can be easily moved to turn compost. Just move the bin to a new site and refill it.

2. Pallet bins can often be made at no cost by recycling building material pallets. Simply stand four pallets on end and wire them together.

• How long does it take to make compost?

With no effort, besides occasional moistening, compost will be ready in 6 months to 2 years.

Chopping or shredding materials, occasional turning and maintaining adequate moisture by watering and covering with plastic will produce finished

compost in less time.

• How wet should my compost be?

Your compost pile should be as moist as a damp sponge.

• Is there an ideal mix for good compost?

Yes! All organics contain carbon and nitrogen. The relationship between these two elements is called the carbon to nitrogen ratio (C:N ratio). A standard compost pile is made with **1 part "brown"** (i.e. leaves) and **2 parts "green"** (i.e. grass clippings). The "browns" are good sources of carbon and the "greens" are good sources of nitrogen (some common "browns" and "greens" are listed below).

This is a great time of year to start a compost pile! So, find your gloves and sense of adventure—the time for you to start composting has arrived!

"Browns" (carbon)

- Hay/Straw
- Leaves
- Pine Needles
- Sawdust/Woodchips/Bark

"Greens" (nitrogen)

- Poultry/Cow & Horse Manure
- Grass Clippings
- Coffee Grounds
- Fruit & Vegetable Trimmings



We're on the Web!
www.awidaho.com

Attention High School Seniors... It's Scholarship Time!

High school graduation is here, and if you're a senior you have BIG decisions to make! If you are considering higher education, Allied Waste may be able to help!

Every year we offer a \$500 scholarship to a senior who is committed to higher education. There may be more than one recipient, so we encourage everyone who meets the criteria to apply!

Scholarship Criteria:

- * Grade Point Average of 3.0, or better (20%).
- * Plan to attend an Idaho post-secondary school (10%).
- * Recommendations from high school teachers (10%).
- * Intent to enter a field of environmental science (20%).
- * Need (40%).

Send your application letter, along with a copy of your high school transcript to:

Allied Waste Services
c/o Rachele Klein
11101 W. Executive Dr.
Boise, Idaho 83713
208-345-1265



Great Job! - Community Update

Do you ever wonder if you make much of a difference by recycling? Consider this...

In the last three months, we collected 221,000 pounds of material in Mountain Home—90% was paper products!

Every ton of paper recycled saves 17 trees, 7000 gallons of water, and 3 cubic yards of landfill space.

This means...In the last three months you saved:

- 1,879 trees
 - 773,500 gallons of water, &
 - 332 cubic yards of landfill space.
- Great job, Mountain Home!!!



Please Flatten Your Plastic!

Did you know that the "PLASTIC" compartment on our recycling truck fills up the fastest? Although the other compartments may only have a small amount of material in them, our drivers still have to head for the recycling center in Boise once the "PLASTIC" compartment is full.

Many plastic containers tend to be bulky (like milk jugs and water bottles) but they are easy to squish. The flatter you can make your recyclables, the more we can fit onto our trucks. Please give it a try and help prevent unnecessary trips to Boise! Thanks!

"The Healthy Hauler"

Did you know that your trash man is at risk every day? Everything that doesn't fit in your wheeled trash cart has to be hand-loaded into the trash truck...and there are some dangerous materials set out for our drivers to handle.

Please help ensure the safety of our drivers by adhering to the following simple guidelines:

Broken Glass

Every household generates broken glass at one time or another—broken pictures frames, drinking glasses, windows, etc. It is our goal to make sure you know how to get rid of it safely. Sandwich broken glass between two pieces of cardboard and

tape the pieces together with strapping or duct tape. Write "BROKEN GLASS" on the outside of the cardboard. If you have small shards or bulky glass pieces, contain them in a box, tape it closed and write "BROKEN GLASS" on the box.



If small enough, place your cardboard box or "sandwich" inside of your wheeled trash cart so the driver can avoid handling the material.

"Sharps"

For residents who are diabetic or have other medical needs requiring the use of needles and syringes, please be sure to contain all of your "Sharps" (needles) in an empty bleach or detergent jug. Once full, duct tape the lid onto the container and write "sharps" on the outside. Placing the container in your wheeled trash cart instead of in a trash bag will safeguard against outside tampering or possible needle sticks.