



## Yard waste options

Michigan law prohibits landfill-disposal and open-burning of leaves, grass clippings, garden debris, shrubbery, brush and tree trimmings. No problem because alternative options are available, including:

### Seasonal, Township pick ups

Kalamazoo Township offer a spring & two fall collections (link to pick up schedule). Fill kraft paper yard waste bags with leaves or brush (no plastic bags). You can bundle brush that does not exceed four feet in length and 2 inches in diameter. Loose leaves are not collected in the street, which creates traffic hazards and clogs drainage.



### Private services

*Weekly cart:* Many residents subscribe to Republic Services' weekly yard waste pick up, using a wheeled cart collected from April – November. Call Republic (add telephone #) for details.

*Drop-off sites:* For a fee, residents can drop off yard waste at Mulder's Landscape Supply (3333 Ravine Road, 345-6900) or Miller Road Transfer Station (2606 Miller Road, 388-3346). If you use bags to contain loose yard waste in your vehicle, simply empty the contents at the drop-off, so you can reuse the bags.



### Home Solutions

*Grass-cycling:* let your mower help you handle grass clippings and dry tree leaves. Returning clippings back to your lawn saves time by eliminating bagging and feeds your lawn a natural time-release fertilizer. Golf courses grass-cycle in roughs with great results.

*Composting:* Composting is a natural process, relying on worms and other decomposers to breakdown or recycle organic materials into "black gold" for your lawn or garden beds. Composting can take four months to over a year, depending on how well you tend to the decomposing organisms' basic needs for food, water, and oxygen.

Locate your compost pile in relative shade to reduce evaporation. Fill more than half your compost pile with carbon-rich (brown) materials, such as leaves, dead flowers, and wood chips. Nitrogen-rich (green) materials, such as grass clippings, coffee grounds, fruit and vegetable peelings, and cow/horse manure will speed the composting process, but should be added in moderation to avoid odors. Do not include meat/dairy products (which may attract animals) or brush and twigs (which are slow to decompose).

