

What to do with Yard Waste

Minnesota state statute 115A.931 prohibits disposing of yard waste with your trash or bringing it to disposal facilities other than compost sites. The City of Maplewood bans dumping yard waste on city property.

What is yard waste?

1. Brush and branches
2. Leaves
3. Grass clippings
4. Weeds
5. Animal droppings

What options do you have for your yard waste?

1. Brush and branches:



- ✓ Use on site for staking, fencing or trellises, arts and crafts.
- ✓ Chip and use as mulch around plants, as a trail covering, or compost.
- ✓ Some trash haulers will haul brush away for a fee. Call your hauler for more information.
- ✓ Call a private brush recycling company. A list of private brush recyclers is provided on the Ramsey County website, www.co.ramsey.mn.us. In the left sidebar, select *Health and Environment, A – Z Disposal Guide* and then *Yard Waste*. Look at the chart for sites that accept brush. Buckthorn roots must be removed. The closest site to Maplewood is at Frank and Sims, East St. Paul. Proof of county residency is required.

Frank and Sims
Brush and Compost
Site, St. Paul



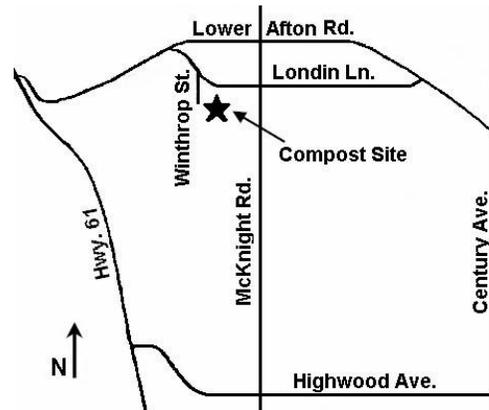
- ✓ Create a brush pile for wildlife! Make sure to pile your brush far away from buildings to discourage rodents and avoid fire hazards.
- ✓ Use as Firewood. Do NOT move firewood out of Ramsey County. There is a quarantine on firewood movement to prevent spread of emerald ash borer and other invasive insects. Maplewood restricts recreational fire size to three feet in diameter and two feet high. Fires must be at least 20 feet from buildings. Fires must be supervised and may only be burned between 2 pm and 11 pm. Only dry wood, charcoal and coal may be burned. Burning leaves, wet materials and trash is prohibited.

2. Leaves:



- ✓ Mulch leaves with a mulching lawn mower, directly into your lawn. They will fertilize the grass and add organic matter to your soil.
- ✓ Shred and use as mulch around plants or rake into woodland native plant gardens with or without shredding. In fall, you can pile leaves in a 3 to 4 inch layer and shred them with your lawnmower.
- ✓ Compost on site. You can make a loose compost pile, build a compost bin or purchase many styles from gardening stores and catalogs. For composting directions go to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's waste reduction website: www.reduce.org. Click on *By Composting* in the left column.
- ✓ Bring leaves to the Ramsey County Compost site above, or to the **Non-Brush** compost site at Battle Creek and Highwood:

Battle Creek & Highwood
Non-Brush Compost Site,
St. Paul



3. Grass clippings:

- ✓ The easiest way to deal with grass clippings is to not make them in the first place. Use a mulching mower (or buy a mulching blade) and mow often, to prevent thatch. The small parts will break down and fertilize your lawn.
- ✓ Grass clippings generate heat and mold that may damage plants if used as mulch before composting. Compost your grass clippings in your home compost pile or bring them to a compost site.

4. Weeds:



- ✓ Compost on site before seed production begins. Place weeds with seeds into a black plastic bag. Let the bag sit in the sun to help kill the seeds before adding to your pile.
- ✓ Bring weeds to a compost site. If seeds are present, transport them in a container or bag to prevent the spread of seeds during transport.

5. Animal droppings:

- ✓ Animal droppings should not be composted. These may contain infectious parasites that are not destroyed by composting. Droppings should be disposed of in a sanitary manner. City ordinance requires pet owners to clean up after their animals on public property.

THANK YOU FOR PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT!

