

## Grass-Cycling

### Good for your lawn

Grass clippings protect the soil and keep moisture in the ground. The clippings quickly decompose, naturally fertilizing your lawn.

### Less work for you

Leaving the clippings on your lawn means no more dragging 50-60 bags of grass to the dump every year.

### Good for the environment

Leaving grass clippings can cut water use in half and reduce fertilizer use by 25%. One household can reduce greenhouse gas by .25 tonnes per year just by grass-cycling



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**Grass-Cycling and Composting in  
your neighborhood**

## Myths Busted



### **Myth1: Grasscycling causes thatch**

Thatch is composed mainly of roots. Excessive root growth is primarily caused by over-watering and over-fertilizing not grass clippings.

### **Myth2: Grasscycling looks untidy**

Grass clippings are approx. 80-85% water allowing them to decompose and disappear within 3 days.

### **Myth3: I have to Grasscycle every time**

You can't always grasscycle. Prolonged wet weather or an infrequent mowing routine are situations where grass clippings should probably be bagged and composted since you will have a large volume of clippings.

## Composting

### Getting Started

1. Choose a convenient, level, well-drained and sunny location in your yard.
2. Start with a layer of finished compost or topsoil. This will provide the needed microorganisms needed to break down the organic material.
3. Alternate layers of "brown" material with moist "green" material. "Green" material is fresh plant materials such as grass clippings and kitchen waste. "Brown" material is dry materials such as dead leaves, grass, and straw. A working recipe would be 1/3 to 1/2 "greens" and 1/2 to 2/3 "browns" by volume. Add another thin layer of finished compost or topsoil every so often.
4. Pile should be roughly one cubic meter in volume, approximately 1 meter (3.5 feet) x 1 meter (3.5 feet).  
Aerate making sure your compost is getting enough air. Water your pile as moist as a wrung out sponge, should be wet to touch but when squeezed no water should drip out. A hot compost pile is good. If your compost is producing heat you know it is working. It should reach temps 40-45 degrees Celsius.

## Compostable Materials



### Good Materials:

- Yard and Garden waste (grass clippings, fallen leaves, flower and vegetable waste, small twigs, straw, hay and peat moss).
- Kitchen waste (fruit, vegetable peelings, tea bags and coffee grounds).
- Wood ashes (not from chemical logs).

For further information go to:

[www.greencalgary.org/resources/composting/grasscycling](http://www.greencalgary.org/resources/composting/grasscycling)