

## HOW DO I COMPOST OUTDOORS?

**Step 1** - Pick a spot. Preferably, use a place that gets an even amount of both sun and shade and is in an easily accessible location.

**Step 2** - Build your compost pile. You can buy a compost bin, make one yourself, or simply just heap your compost.



**Step 3** - Maintain the pile. Add materials, being sure that they belong in the pile.

**Step 4** - Keep it damp. The pile should be moist, but not soggy. If it's not kept damp, the materials in the pile won't decompose.

**Step 5** - Give it air. Fluff or turn the pile each time you add materials to give the materials oxygen and help them decompose.

By simply using the information provided in this brochure, you can go from being part of the pollution problem, to being an important part of the solution! The Navy supports all pollution prevention activities on all its bases and installations.



## BE PART OF THE POLLUTION SOLUTION



**DECREASING STORMWATER POLLUTION FROM YOUR LAWN IS EASY!**

**For Additional Information:  
Call PWC Regional Environmental Group at 444-3009**

Naval Station Norfolk: ext. 389  
Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek: ext. 388  
Naval Air Station Oceana: ext. 394

## HOW DO MY LAWN AND GARDEN ACTIVITIES CAUSE POLLUTION?

Lawns can be a source of stormwater pollution if proper lawn care practices are not followed. When you apply fertilizer and pesticides to lawns and gardens, excessive rain and watering will wash these materials into storm drains.



Storm drains are directly connected to nearby streams, rivers, lakes, and bays.

Over time, fertilizer and pesticides can contaminate our drinking water, kill fish, and cause beach closures.

The good news is that you can make a difference!

## WHAT CAN I DO?

### Fertilizers & Pesticides

- Use fertilizers and pesticides that are less toxic.
- Follow the directions, and use the least amount!
- Do not apply just before a heavy rain.
- Unless the directions say to, do not water your lawn immediately after application.

### Grass Clippings

- Leave grass clippings on the lawn after cutting to serve as a natural fertilizer.
- Do not dispose of lawn clippings in storm drains.

### Insects & Plants

- Choose plants that are resistant to insects.
- Use insects, such as praying mantises and ladybugs, instead of pesticides (visit your local gardening store). Praying mantises enjoy eating flies, and ladybugs like aphids!

### Composting

- Composting is an easy and inexpensive way to get rid of lawn waste and kitchen scraps.
- Composting is a **fun hobby**, and a great source of fertilizer.

## HOW DOES COMPOSTING PREVENT POLLUTION?

Composting is a simple process that uses nature's "critters" to turn kitchen scraps and lawn waste into a nutrient rich soil additive. Instead of tossing certain waste in the trash, toss it into a compost pile.

Composting reduces the amount of garbage that enters our landfills. Compost can be used as a soil supplement, and even as an alternative to fertilizer and mulch!

Here is a quick composting guide:

Do Compost	Do Not Compost
Leaves	Meat & fat
Grass/garden clippings	Pet waste
Manure (cow and horse)	Dairy products
Fruit & vegetable scraps	Grease & oils
Coffee grounds & filters	Diseased plants
Eggshells	Bones

A good compost pile has three times more "browns" (materials such as dead leaves that are high in carbon) than "greens" (such as fresh grass clippings and garden pruning materials that are high in nitrogen).

Keep reading for more about composting...