



CONSERVATION NEWS

Tidewater Soil & Water Conservation District
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 Gloucester, VA 23061
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www.tidewaterswcd.org

Fall 2008 Serving the counties of Gloucester, Mathews, and Middlesex

Household Harmful Waste

You may not think so, but the average household has between three and ten gallons of materials that are potentially hazardous to human health or the environment. Many products you use everyday such as cleaners, solvents, and pesticides contribute to the hazardous waste problem when disposed of improperly. By putting these products in the trash or pouring them on the ground you endanger not only the environment, but your family. Please dispose of your harmful household products properly at a local collection site.

Household Harmful Waste Collection Saturday, October 18, 2008

9:30 am - 3:30 pm
 Hayes Convenience Center
 7599 Guinea Road
 693-5370

Some of the items collected

- *fuel oil & kerosene
- *motor oil
- *brake fluid
- *antifreeze
- *oil based paint, paint thinner ,& wood stains
- *pool supplies
- *solvents
- *pesticides, fertilizer, weed killer
- *lighter fluid
- *medical supplies
- *compact fluorescent light bulbs
- *flea powder
- *gun cleaning solvent
- *chemistry sets
- *batteries
- *photographic materials
- *epoxies & resins
- *metal polish
- *aerosol cans
- *mercury (broken thermometer)
- *smoke alarms

Cover Crop Deadlines

Early cover crop must be planted by **October 25,** 2008.

Late cover crop must be planted by **November 15,** 2008.

Please notify Tidewater SWCD as soon as you have completed planting your early and late cover crops @ 804-693-3562 ext. 5

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America Recycles Day - November 15, 2008

Do your part to recycle!

There are convenience centers located in all three counties to collect paper, cardboard, aluminum cans, glass containers, scrap metal, tires, and used motor oil. Check out the websites or call for more information and locations.

<http://www.gloucesterva.info/clean/ConvenienceCenters.htm>

<http://www.visitmathewsva.com/statistics.html>

Hartfield Convenience Center

Highway 33
Hartfield, VA 23071
(804)776-7322

Jamaica Convenience Center

County Road 640
Churchview, VA 23032
(804)758-0006

Waste Production in the United States

- The U.S. produces 4.5 pounds of trash per day per person and up to 1643 pounds of trash per year are created by the average person.
- Only about 1/10th of all solid garbage in the U.S. gets recycled.
- Everyday the U.S. throws away enough trash to fill 63,000 garbage trucks.
- 1/3 of the waste generated in the U.S. is from packaging.
- Americans throw away 2.5 million plastic bottles every hour.
- Americans throw away enough glass bottles every two weeks to have filled both World Trade Center towers.
- There are 65 billion aluminum soda cans used every year.
- During the holidays the U.S. generates 5 million tons of waste, four million tons of it is gift wrapping paper and shopping bags.
- If 1 ton of plastic is recycled the energy is equivalent to 11 barrels of oil.
- If everyone used 1 reusable bag there would be 300-500 less plastic bags in the landfills or waterways.
- The Wall Street Journal says the U.S. spends 4 billion dollars annually in plastic throwaway bags.

Just think if everyone used just one recycle bag during the year, they could save 300-500 plastic bags from going into our landfills and we could save millions of dollars. It takes a plastic bag about 30 years to degrade.

The petroleum used to produce 14 plastic bags is enough to drive a car one mile, think of the gas savings. There is normally a recycle bin to place plastic bags in outside of grocery stores. If we recycled our aluminum soda cans instead of tossing them in the garbage, think how much space we would save in the landfills. It takes an aluminum can about 200-400 years to breakdown in the landfill. It takes 90% less energy to recycle an aluminum can than it does to make a new one. Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to keep a 100-watt light bulb burning for almost four hours or to run your television for three hours. One used aluminum can is recycled and back on the shelf as a new can, in as little as 60 days. It takes glass an indefinite time to biodegrade in the landfill so we should recycle as much of it as possible. Recycled glass can be used in numerous areas; such as more glass, countertops, manufactured kitchen tiles, glassphalt, which is a type of road paving, and providing sand to depleted beaches. Recycled glass takes less energy to produce than making new glass and saves our natural resources too. Glass containers can go from a recycling bin to a store shelf in as little as 30 days. Glass can be recycled infinitely without any loss of purity or quality.

Paper and cardboard can also be recycled and this would keep from taking up so much room in the landfills. It takes about 2-4 weeks for paper to breakdown in the landfill. Every ton of paper recycled saves more than 3.3 yards of landfill space. Cardboard needs to be broken down when placed in the convenience center bins. Think of ways you can reuse paper and cardboard at home. They can both be used in the garden or flowerbed as a weed controlling mulch. Use cardboard to line your compost heap or add shredded paper in layers with wet grass. Shredded cardboard can also be used for animal bedding. Also, instead of collecting your leaves and pine straw and to take to the convenience center or burn it, you can use it as mulch in your flowerbeds or garden.

Why Compost?

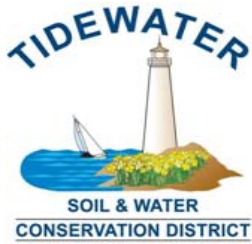
Yard waste and food scraps make up approximately 20%-30% of garbage disposed in our landfills every year. Many of these landfills are filling up and closing and finding new places to put our garbage is a major natural resource and economic concern. Composting your yard and kitchen waste is very similar to recycling; you will be ultimately sending less garbage to landfills.

Composting provides an almost constant source of free fertilizer and soil conditioner. The organic materials in the compost help your plants grow by loosening the soil and allowing better root entry. The texture of compost improves water holding capability of your soil and can reduce your water bills. Through regular use of compost you can greatly reduce the need for chemical fertilizers, which saves you money and reduces contamination of our waterways and drinking water.

SIGN UP BEGINS OCT. 1 FOR FEDERAL CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

NRCS in Virginia will be accepting sign ups for the traditional practices offered for resource concerns in animal waste, erosion control, forestry, wildlife and cropland management. Additional offerings may be made later in the year once final changes are approved from the 2008 Farm Bill.

Farmers who signed up in the previous program year will need to reapply under the new Farm Bill. Farmers can contact the local NRCS office at the Gloucester Service Center with any questions @ 804-693-3562 Ext.3. Applications will be approved later in the fall for practices to be applied in the spring and fall of 2009.



Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage Paid
Gloucester, VA
Non-Profit
Permit No. 53

P.O. Box 677
Gloucester, VA 23061

District Directors

Robert Respass, Jr. - Chairman-Mathews
Jason Bray -Vice Chairman-Middlesex
Keith Horsley -Treasurer-Gloucester
Carter Borden -Secretary-Gloucester
Alan Sutherlin -Middlesex
Vacant-Mathews
Tyler Crittenden -At Large
David Moore -At Large-VCE

All programs of the Tidewater SWCD are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis; without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, political affiliation, marital/familial status, or handicap. The Commonwealth of Virginia supports the Tidewater Soil and Water Conservation District through financial and administrative assistance provided by the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

District Personnel

LaVerne Calhoun - District Manager
Staci Merkt - Conservation Specialist
Rene Moring- Conservation Assistant

NRCS Personnel

Charlie Ivins-District Conservationist

Thank You !

Thank you to everyone who attended our rain barrel workshop and are now taking an active role in water conservation. A special thank you to those who made this event possible and a great success!

Tidewater SWCD Directors
Home Depot
Ace Hardware
Middlesex Parks & Recreation
Staci Merkt- TSWCD
Rene Moring- TSWCD
David Moore-VCE
Charlie Ivins- NRCS
Roger Calhoun
Ronnie Moring