

Simply Green

Volume 1, Issue 3

December 1, 2011

Preble County Solid Waste Management District

Special points of interest:

- How to make your own compost bin.
- Composting Dos and Don'ts.
- "Greening" your bathroom.
- Energy saving ideas for your home
- The Household Hazardous Waste Trailer at the Preble County Landfill helps recycle toxic items.

Preble County Solid Waste Management District

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Christmas Tree Recycling-

Christmas is over and you're left packing up the lights and the ornaments wondering what to do with your Christmas tree.

Recycle it! Bring it to the Preble County Landfill to be placed in the yard waste container. There may be a small fee to recycle your tree, but if you do your part, it will help...you will see!

(Artificial Christmas trees cannot be recycled). Questions about recycling your tree? Call 937-456-6880.

How to Make a Simple Compost Bin-

Composting is easy and you don't have to spend a great deal of money on a fancy composting bin. Do it yourself and experience the satisfaction of making top quality fertilizer for your garden while helping to keep organic materials and other compostable items from entering our landfills.

Instructions-

Things you'll need:

- 2 plastic garbage cans with lids
- Drill with paddle bit (size depends on the size of the garbage can) or any other bit that will make at least a quarter sized circular hole)

- Water
- Anything that can be composted

Step 1- Make sure your garbage cans are of a heavier duty plastic, but not too hard so that drilling into them won't crack or break the plastic. Make sure the cans have tight fitting lids. You want two garbage cans: one for fresh compost and one for compost that can be left to do its thing. The kinds of garbage cans you take to the curb every week work best, household garbage cans tend to be too small and flimsy.

Step 2- For a medium-sized garbage can, you want at least half-dollar sized holes placed throughout the garbage can about every 24". Drill

them starting at the top and work your way all the way around. Make sure they are 24" from the top of the garbage can, 24" from the next hole on the left and right, and 24" from the hole directly below. To make it simple, space them basically like you would cookies on a cookie sheet. **Do Not** drill holes in the lid, but you should drill a series of small holes in the bottom so the water doesn't go running out but drains slowly and gives your compost air circulation.



Composting Tips and Warnings-

- ◆ If you want to speed up the compost process, add a little dirt from your garden or get a compost activator!
- ◆ Research what you can compost, you'll probably be surprised!
- ◆ Gnats and other bugs near your compost

isn't bad, many times they help aerate the compost.

- ◆ Make sure you never add anything toxic to your compost!
- ◆ Don't get tempted to add printed boxes or printed cardboard, bones, meat or animal products to your com-

post, it can be toxic and can attract pests.

- ◆ **NEVER NEVER NEVER** compost pet waste!

* Information in this composting article was found using the ehow.com website where much valuable information about composting and recycling can be found.



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Tips on Greening Your Bathroom-

Consider eco-friendly remodeling when you re-do your bathroom area.

Use recycled materials in construction, install water-saving fixtures, and choose energy-efficient lighting.

*** Save water-**

Take shorter showers, and install a shutoff valve to your showerhead so that you can turn off the flow while you are lathering without having to recalibrate your perfect-temperature water. Install a low flow showerhead. Consider taking a bath. Typical showers use 5 gallons of water per minute, while bathtubs usually hold 30-50 gallons of water. If you take a shower longer than 6 minutes you might use less water by using the tub. Use an adjustable toilet flapper to decrease the amount of water your

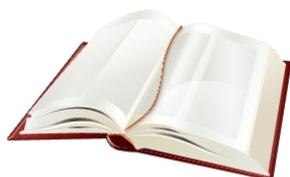
toilet uses or put a weighted half-gallon container (like a milk carton) in the tank which will save about a half gallon per flush. Don't flush toilets unnecessarily.

*** Save energy-**

Unplug rechargeable personal care items like electric toothbrushes and shavers when not in use. They can be "energy vampires". Consider air drying your hair instead of using the hair dryer which uses a lot of energy. Replace your old bathroom ventilation fan with an efficient Energy Star model.

*** Use eco-friendly products-**

Invest in pretty pumps to dispense hand soap and refill them to reduce buying excess packaging. Buy shampoo in bulk and refill reusable bottles for all your bathrooms. Use a washable and reusable cup instead of Dixie cups in the bathroom. Use recycled-content toilet paper. Try earth-friendly cleaners like Simply Green in the bathroom or make your own. Scrub your tub and sink with baking soda and vinegar.



Thrifty Living Is In-style in Today's Down Economy-

Reducing, reusing, and recycling are very popular subjects these days. Here are two well-known favorite books for inspiring creative thriftiness:

1. The Tightwad Gazette (Volumes 1-3) by Amy Dacyczyn. The book was written by a mom with six children who quit her well-paying graphic design job to practice what she calls "creative tight-waddery and thriftiness".

Although this family lived on Amy's husband's military paycheck in the mid-90's (which amounted to about \$30,000 annually) they were able to become completely debt free and to pay for a pre-1900's New England farmhouse outright. Though somewhat outdated in a few areas because it was written in the mid-90's, the advice on many of her subjects in the book

is still sound today and what you really take from the book is the mind-set for truly creative recycling/reusing as well as the habit of saving money on everyday items.

2. Living Well on a Shoestring- 1,501 Ingenious Ways to Spend Less for What You Need and Have More for What you Want by the editors of Yankee Magazine. The title says it all! Outlines plans for



The HHW can take your old computer components to be recycled! TVs 42" and under can also be brought in.

Preble County Landfill's HHW Trailer Promotes Safe Recycling-

Many Preble county citizens are not aware that they can take potentially toxic items to the landfill's Household Hazardous Waste trailer for safe disposal. Following is a list of potentially hazardous and toxic items that should not be thrown in the trash but should be brought to the HHW for removal:

- ◇ Resins- putty, glazing, bondo
- ◇ Adhesives- glue, epoxy,
- ◇ Oxidizers- nitrate-based fertilizers, chlorine tablets, pool chemicals, etc.
- ◇ Acids, Bases, Household Cleaners- drain cleaners, bleach ammonia, muriatic acid, oven cleaners, photo developers, etc.
- ◇ Used motor oil and anti-freeze
- ◇ Pesticides, herbicides, etc.
- ◇ poisons like insect killer, weed killer, DeCon
- ◇ Household batteries- nickel-cadmium, lithium, mercury, silver oxide, alkaline
- ◇ Oil-based paint is toxic and should go to the HHW. Latex paint may be dried and put out with your regular trash.
- ◇ Florescent light bulbs and CFLs.