



GreenTip
How Do You Measure Up?

“Green” Your Household Trash Disposal

How we dispose of our trash and unwanted household materials is a choice that can have a major environmental impact. Keeping toxic and hazardous materials out of landfills is key to maintaining water quality. Saving energy and conserving virgin resources by recycling reduces our carbon footprint. Composting organic material returns nutrients to plants and soils naturally, without chemicals. These and many other green disposal options are available to residents of Guilford County.

Do you think you know the proper methods for disposing of different types of waste? Read on and see!

Leaner, Greener Trash Disposal

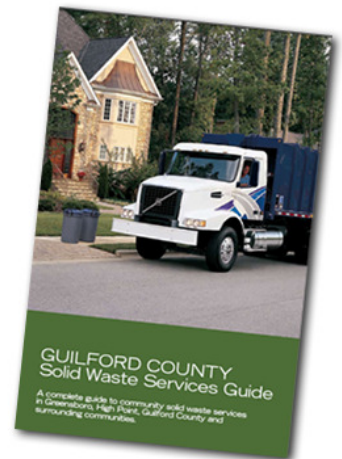
If you live in Guilford County, all of the material you put into your trash can ends up in a landfill. Cut down on the amount of trash you throw away by recycling. Learn the details about your local recycling program so you can remove all recyclable materials from your trash. Click [here](#) to look up your community’s recycling information in the Guilford County Solid Waste Services Guide.

“Yard Waste” – an Oxymoron:

If you look at it from a green perspective, there is no such thing as “yard waste.” Everything from grass clippings and leaves to tree limbs and shrubbery trimmings is recyclable. Green your trash by taking out all yard waste and recycling it. If you’re a do-it-yourselfer, you can get help setting up a backyard compost site through the Guilford County Cooperative Extension. Call 375-5876 to find out more. Many residents with curbside trash collection also have curbside yard waste collection available. Check with your service provider for details.

There are also compost facilities available to residents for recycling yard waste. Click [here](#) and scroll to the Yard Waste section on page 9 for locations and contact information. These facilities also have compost and mulch available to purchase. Using these recycled materials will help reduce the chemicals and fertilizers you’ll need to use in your gardens and flower beds.

When the holidays roll around, don’t forget to recycle your Christmas tree! In addition to curbside disposal services provided by some towns and cities, Guilford County provides three Christmas tree drop-off sites each year. Christmas trees are chipped into mulch for use at county parks and facilities. Click [here](#) for details.



Too Toxic to Trash:

How do you dispose of household chemicals and solvents? Paints, stains and thinners? Garden chemicals, like bug killers, weed killers and fertilizers? Automotive fluids, including motor oil, gasoline and antifreeze? Batteries of all types? Electronics, such as TV's computers, games, stereos and cell phones? Fluorescent tubes and bulbs? All of these items are considered household hazardous waste (HHW) and should never be thrown in your trash! Click [here](#) for more details about HHW.

The toxic materials found in each of these products must be disposed of properly. In Guilford County, residents have a household hazardous waste collection facility available for convenient, year round disposal of HHW. Click here and scroll to page 11 for information about the facility location and hours of operation. There is no charge to drop off HHW at the facility, so being environmentally responsible won't break your budget!



Talk Construction Trash:

Do you have a construction or demolition project going on at your house? A large part of construction and demolition (C&D) debris can be **recycled** and **reused**. Instead of sending your C&D waste to the landfill, you can choose to send it to a facility where C&D material is sorted and processed. There are three permitted C&D facilities in Guilford County – click [here](#) and scroll to the Construction Debris section on page 9 for details.