



# At-home medical care presents disposal challenges



Many residents in Gwinnett County have medical conditions that require self-care or treatment of family members at home. Much of this care results in biomedical waste. Properly managing this waste protects human health and our environment.

For residents, Georgia State law allows the disposal of medical waste in household trash, but only if the waste is generated as a result of self-care or treatment of family members in their own homes. However, there are regulations for disposing of these wastes that residents should follow. To help you comply with state laws and regulations, follow these guidelines:



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- If you are disposing of full biomedical containers, such as colostomy or urostomy bags, you must dispose of urine or fecal matter through a wastewater treatment system or septic tank. In other words, you should empty the contents of the container, such as the colostomy bag, into your toilet and flush. The empty container can then be placed into a sealable plastic bag and disposed of with your regular household trash.
- If you are disposing of “sharps,” which includes medical syringes, hypodermic needles, and lancets, you must place the sharps into a sealed, puncture-proof container before disposing of that container in your household trash. Follow these steps:
  1. Place used sharps in a rigid plastic container, such as a bleach or detergent bottle with a screw-top lid or a sharps container (sold at local pharmacies).
  2. When full, screw the lid on tightly and tape it in place with duct tape. With permanent marker, clearly label the containers “Bio-Hazard.”
  3. Place the container into your household trash cart for collection.

To learn more about Georgia State regulations on the disposal of biomedical wastes, go to <http://rules.sos.state.ga.us/docs/391/3/4/15.pdf>.

## Holiday Garbage & Recycling Collection Schedule

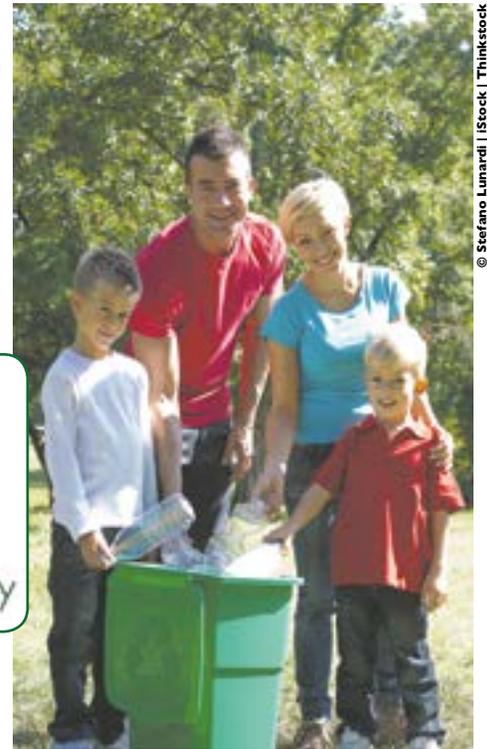
Please note that Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year’s Day are trash/recycling holidays. If your normal collection day takes place on one of these holidays, your collection will be delayed one day. See the schedule below for clarification:

Week of	Normal Collection Day	Collection Day
November 24-28	Thursday, November 27	Friday, November 28
November 24-28	Friday, November 28	Saturday, November 29
December 22-26	Thursday, December 25	Friday, December 26
December 22-26	Friday, December 26	Saturday, December 27
December 29-January 2	Thursday, January 1	Friday, January 2
December 29-January 2	Friday, January 2	Saturday, January 3

# Recycle at your parties and events

With summer in full swing, people are hosting gatherings, cookouts, and family reunions. Are you recycling at your parties? If not, start now! At your celebrations, ask whether the venue provides recycling. If they don't, request a recycling container or bring one with you. If you are hosting your party at home, remember to set recycling bins and trash cans next to each other to make it easy for guests to recycle.

You can drop off collected recyclables at the Recycling Bank of Gwinnett, located at 4300 Satellite Boulevard in Duluth. Or, if you're a resident of unincorporated Gwinnett County, you can recycle them at the curb on your regular pickup day. Residents of unincorporated Gwinnett County can use any container to collect recyclables, but please be sure to clearly mark each container with the word "RECYCLE." For those who live in a city, residents should contact their trash and recycling provider to learn about their recycling guidelines.



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## Celebrate America Recycles Day on November 22!

Come celebrate America Recycles Day with the Gwinnett County Solid Waste and Recovered Materials Division on Saturday, November 22, from 9:00am to noon at Coolray Field, home of the Gwinnett Braves. Details are still being finalized, but this free event will feature electronics recycling, tire recycling (limit 8 tires per vehicle; no dealer tires), kids' activities, and more! Please bring your old sneakers to be donated to those in need or recycled into reusable surfaces for playgrounds and running tracks.



Beginning in October, please visit our website at [www.sustainablegwinnett.com](http://www.sustainablegwinnett.com) for more details. Meanwhile, if you are looking to recycle or properly dispose of Household Hazardous Waste, electronic waste, and more, please contact our call center between 8:00am and 5:00pm, Monday through Friday, or search our Recycling Directory at [www.sustainablegwinnett.com](http://www.sustainablegwinnett.com). We hope to see you in November!

We need many volunteers to make America Recycles Day a success! Volunteers will be assigned to serve between 8:00am and 2:00pm. For details or to sign up, please visit [www.volunteergwinnett.net](http://www.volunteergwinnett.net).

# Fourth annual Earth Day event brings community together

On May 10, 2014, we celebrated Earth Day at Coolray Field. During this one-day event, residents dropped off 7.5 tons of tires, 5 tons of electronics, 40 toner and ink cartridges, and 278 pairs of sneakers. In addition, 800 gallons of paint were donated to Global Paint for Charity, 200 gallons of which have already been given to the Metro Atlanta Task Force for the Homeless to give a facelift to the walls of the Peachtree Pine Homeless Shelter building. Together we do great things!

Attendees enjoyed kids' activities and games and got a chance to meet their residential haulers. A huge thanks to Advanced Disposal, Republic Services, Sanitation Solutions, Southern Sanitation, and Waste Pro, along with the Gwinnett Braves, ViaTek Solutions, Global Paint for Charity, EcoSneakers, Cartridge World, and La Raza 102.3FM for their partnership in this exciting event. Be sure to join us next spring for this annual celebration!



# Remember to e-cycle

Each day, Georgians purchase new electronics, and, in the process, tons of computers, TVs, VCRs, CD players, and cell phones become electronic waste (also known as e-waste). As much as 99% of all materials from electronics can be reused in a different capacity, helping to create new electronic items, plastic components, or wood composites. Electronics recycling helps conserve natural resources by recovering valuable materials from old electronics that can be used to make new products. As a result, we reduce greenhouse gas emissions and pollution and save energy and resources by extracting fewer raw materials from the earth. E-waste recycling is offered at special events in Gwinnett County, but there are also year-round options. To find a location to recycle e-waste near you, visit [www.earth911.com](http://www.earth911.com).



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## What do you do with your yard trimmings?

Have you considered using yard trimmings to improve your landscape and gardens? Grass clippings can stay on the lawn when you mow, providing your lawn with both moisture and nitrogen. Yard trimmings can be chopped and turned into mulch to prevent erosion and hold moisture in your soil near plant roots. You can also compost yard trimmings in a pile or a bin. In a compost pile or bin, the organic matter from your yard will break down, becoming a nutrient-rich soil amendment that you can use in your gardens or flower pots.

If you aren't prepared to mulch or compost, you can collect yard trimmings and have them picked up at your curb. In Gwinnett County, collection of yard trimmings is an optional service that residents may arrange with their designated hauler and pay for directly. The Gwinnett County Solid Waste Collection and Disposal Services Ordinance of 2010 places the following restrictions on the handling and disposal of yard trimmings:

1. Yard trimmings must be separated by Gwinnett County residents from solid waste at the curb prior to collection.
2. All materials must be placed at the curb in suitable receptacles, such as sturdy paper bags (not plastic bags).
3. Limbs less than 4 inches in diameter and under 3 feet long must be tied in a bundle weighing no more than 50 pounds.
4. Stumps, roots, and stubs with intact root balls and treated wood are not allowed.

If mulching and composting are not for you, and you choose not to receive yard waste service from your designated hauler, you may take your yard debris to a yard waste landfill. These locations accept yard waste:

- Cowart Mulch Products, Inc., 185 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard, Sugar Hill, 770.932.0590 (Other locations: Cumming and Auburn)
- Snellville Recycling Center Drop-Off Site, 2531 Marigold Road, Snellville, 770.985.3539
- 81 Inert Landfill & Disposal, 644 Highway 81, Loganville, 404.725.8515
- Doraville Transfer Station, 2784 Woodwin Road, Atlanta, 770.451.4300
- Kent Rock Inert Landfill, 5261 Kent Rock Road, Loganville, 770.385.0666
- S&W Inert, 421 Thunder Road, Buford, 770.945.1771

For additional information on yard trimmings collection, please visit the Gwinnett County Solid Waste and Recovered Materials Division website at [www.sustainablegwinnett.com](http://www.sustainablegwinnett.com) or call us at 770.822.7141.

# Recycle to Reduce!

Here's what you can **recycle at the curb** under Gwinnett County's solid waste plan:

## Aluminum

Aluminum beverage containers, aluminum baking tins, aluminum food containers

## Cardboard

Broken down cardboard boxes, pizza boxes

## Glass

Glass bottles, jars

## Junk mail

Discarded mail, greeting cards, envelopes

## Kraft paper

Kraft paper, paper grocery bags, paper shopping and lunch bags

## Magazines

Magazines, shopping catalogs

## Mixed paper

Calendars, school papers, paper carbonless forms

## Newspaper

Newspapers, inserts

## Other paper

Computer papers, old phone directories, paperback books

## Paperboard

Paperboard, paper towel cores, cereal boxes, tissue boxes, toilet paper cores, shoe boxes, soda and beer cartons

## Plastic #1 – 7

#1: Soda and water bottles  
#2: Milk jugs, juice bottles, butter and yogurt tubs  
#3: Detergent and household cleaner containers, shampoo and cooking oil bottles  
#4: Squeezable bottles  
#5: Syrup, ketchup and medicine bottles, straws, some yogurt containers  
#6: Disposable plates and cups, aspirin bottles, CD cases  
#7: Three and five-gallon water bottles, certain food containers

## Steel

Steel food containers, empty aerosol cans, clean metallic lids



[www.sustainablegwinnett.com](http://www.sustainablegwinnett.com)

## what's up?



Learn more about gardening by taking a class at the Gwinnett County Extension Office:

- Invasive plants – July 30 – Learn about the various non-native plants that have invasive tendencies and what you can do to prevent their spread.
- Herbs in the Garden – August 14 – Herbs are excellent garden plants that require minimal maintenance and come in a variety of scents, flavors, and colors.
- Fall Vegetable Gardening – August 27 – This class will show you how to start a fall vegetable garden and the various types of vegetables that you can grow in it.

Classes run one hour, from noon to 1:00pm. Classes are free, but pre-registration is required. To register, contact Timothy Daly at 678.377.4010 or [timothy.daly@gwinnettcountry.com](mailto:timothy.daly@gwinnettcountry.com).

# How to have an attractive landscape using less water

By Tim Daly, Cooperative Extension Agent

The hot, dry conditions over the past few weeks are stressing plants in the landscape. In spite of the challenges of the summer weather, you can still have a nice, landscaped yard and conserve water.

In most landscapes, turfgrasses occupy the largest area. Some types of turfgrass use less water than others. Hybrid Bermudagrass is generally the most drought-tolerant. However, eliminating turfgrass areas can also help reduce the need for water. Convert these areas to beds of drought-tolerant trees, shrubs, and groundcovers with soil covered in mulch.



Lantana and verbena are annual flowers that have excellent tolerance to heat and drought. (Picture by Timothy Daly)

During dry periods, healthy turfgrass will begin to wilt and turn brown, regaining its normal color and appearance upon receiving adequate water again. Warm season turfgrasses, such as Bermuda, Zoysia, and Centipede, require roughly 1 inch of water per week. Tall fescue may require more. When mowing, remove no more than one-third of the leaf tissue. During dry spells, raise the mowing height  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch. Avoid fertilizer applications with high nitrogen since this encourages excessive growth that increases the demands for water.

Use plants that are more tolerant to adverse conditions and have lower maintenance needs. Ornamental grasses, most hollies, junipers, and many herbaceous perennials tolerate hot, dry conditions once established. If it is adapted to its environment, the plant has a better chance of surviving summer weather conditions. For example, junipers require full sun and well-drained soil. If planted in shade, they will deteriorate.

Mulching conserves moisture by preventing evaporative loss of water from the soil. Pine straw, pine

bark mini-nuggets, and shredded hardwood mulch or chips serve as the best mulch to reduce water loss by holding in the moisture better than the large nugget pine bark. Inorganic mulches, such as lava rock, gravel, and marble, tend to absorb more heat from the sun and increase water loss from the plants. Apply 2 to 4 inches of organic mulch instead.

Yes, you can have an attractive home landscape that uses minimal water. Proper management of irrigation and using good cultural practices will help your landscape survive and thrive in the hot, dry summer months.

The Gwinnett County Solid Waste & Recovered Materials Call Center Representatives can be reached from 8:00am to 5:00pm Monday through Friday, with the exception of holidays, at 770.822.7141. You may also reach us via email at [gcsolidwaste@gwinnettcounty.com](mailto:gcsolidwaste@gwinnettcounty.com).

Our office will be closed in observance of Labor Day; however, your trash hauler will collect garbage and recyclables as regularly scheduled. If you have questions about holiday collection, contact our Division or feel free to contact your hauler directly.