

# Earth Machine Compost Bins



ONLY \$35

## AVAILABLE AT:

**Hood River Garbage**  
3440 Guignard Dr., Hood River

**The Dalles Disposal**  
1317 W First St., The Dalles

**Mel's Sanitary Service**  
Transfer Station  
57590 Yew Dr., Tygh Valley

**AND NOW**  
**Mid-Columbia Producers**  
**Wasco Farm Store**  
820 Hwy 206, Wasco

## Become a Master Recycler

*Gung-ho about reducing waste and recycling?*

Get the formal training you need to help make a difference in your community by becoming a Master Recycler! Similar to the OSU Extension Service's popular Master Gardener program, participants will attend a series of mandatory classes and field trips, and be required to volunteer at least 30 "payback" hours in their communities.

The mission of the Master Recycler program is to "bridge the gap between awareness and action by motivating people to reduce solid waste in homes and workplaces."

Since starting last fall, the local Master Recycler program has completed two rounds of training with 22 graduates currently completing their "payback" requirements.

Their volunteer activities have included helping with waste reduction and recycling at schools, on-the-job and in child day care facilities; staffing booths at local farmers markets; marching in local parades; litter clean-ups; helping with a medical waste



Spring 2010 class of Master Recyclers

collection; helping at local hazardous waste collection events; and doing recycled art projects with children.

The Fall 2010 Master Recycler course will be held Tuesday evenings during September 14-November 2 at the Mosier Creek Terrace in Mosier. For more information and an application, visit [www.tricountyrecycle.com](http://www.tricountyrecycle.com) and click "Master Recycler", or contact Cindy Brown at the TriCounty Hazardous Waste & Recycling Program at 541-506-2636.



fall 2010

Tri-County Hazardous Waste and Recycling Program serving Wasco, Sherman, and Hood River Counties

# Reduce Waste + Recycle More

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

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## Where does my recycling go?

Here is the simple truth: *Recyclable materials go to where there is someone or someplace willing to take them, use them, and/or purchase them.*

### Supply-and-demand

It's not really recyclable if nobody wants it. Recycling is a process AND a business, which means those recyclables — old newspapers, office paper, magazines, metal cans, plastic bottles and tubs, aluminum foil, glass, and cardboard — move from your home or office via the local garbage haulers and recyclers to end users for another purpose or to be made into a new product to sell.

### "Is my stuff REALLY recycled?"

Don't worry — by Oregon state law, if you put material out for recycling, it cannot be treated as garbage and disposed of at the landfill. It must continue its way through the recycling system to an end user.

### What happens at the transfer station?

Basically, materials are *transferred* or moved from one place to another. **Trash (solid waste)** comes in from residents and businesses. It gets consolidated into large trailers, which are hauled to the Wasco County Landfill outside of The Dalles. Since a variety of **recyclable materials** come into the transfer stations as well as A&P Recycling, these are managed in a variety of ways.

### What recyclables go where?

**Co-mingled recyclables** — all that stuff you put in your curbside recycling, blue bins, roll carts or rural depot — is hauled in trailers to the Portland area. It goes to a "Materials Recovery Facility" (MRF) to be sorted and sold to buyers. At the MRF, co-mingled recyclables are sorted into different categories on a large, conveyor belt system. They end up as big, compressed bales of specific materials such as office paper, plastic water bottles, newspaper or metal cans. However, if you put the wrong stuff in your blue bin (**No-No's like styrofoam or clear "clamshell" packages or plastic bags**) — that does end up as garbage, because it contaminates all the good recyclables.

**Cardboard** is collected at the transfer stations and A&P Recycling in The Dalles. It is baled, loaded on flatbed trailers, and trucked to companies in large cities (like Portland or Yakima) who then use it for other purposes. For example, one purchaser in the Yakima Valley recycles old cardboard boxes into trays for apples when packed for shipping.

**Glass** from our area is generally re-used as a substitute for more expensive gravel for road base at the Wasco County Landfill. The landfill has a special permit from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality to re-use glass in this manner.

**Yard debris** collected at The Dalles Transfer Station is hauled to a processing facility in Vancouver; the yard debris at Hood River Garbage is ground on-site and given away as soil abatement material or as a rough mulching product.

A new commercial composting facility in The Dalles (currently in the permitting and construction process) will allow the material from both transfer stations to be composted right here in the Gorge.

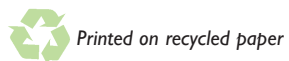
**Plastic shopping bags** from the local grocery store recycling containers are baled at A&P Recycling and sold to companies in the metro area and remade into other products, such as Trex plastic lumber for decking or benches.

**Remember...recycle plastic shopping bags at the store NOT IN YOUR BLUE BIN! They jam up the recycling equipment.**

**BRING BAGS BACK TO A PARTICIPATING STORE FOR RECYCLING**



reduce waste + recycle more  
[www.tricountyrecycle.com](http://www.tricountyrecycle.com)



**Tri-County**  
Hazardous Waste & Recycling Program  
419 E. Seventh St., The Dalles OR 97058



# Where can I recycle?

Combined (mixed) recyclables can be taken to:

- **The Dalles Disposal Service**  
1317 W 1st St, The Dalles  
541-298-5149 • Mon-Sat 9am-5pm
- **Hood River Garbage Service**  
3440 Guignard Drive, Hood River  
541-386-2272 • Mon-Sat 9am-5pm
- **Mel's Sanitary Service Inc.**  
Transfer Station  
57590 Yew Drive, Tygh Valley  
541-483-2500 • Mon-Fri 8am-2pm

## "24-7" Self-Service Recycling Depots

Maupin  
Mt. Hood

Sherman County recycling depots:

- **Grass Valley** (Mon & Tues 1-3 pm)
- **Moro** (2nd Fri & Sat 9 am-4:30 pm)
- **Wasco** (3rd Fri & Sat 9am-4:30pm)
- **Rufus** (4th Fri & Sat 9am-4:30 pm)

Separated (sorted by type) recyclables can be taken to:

- **A&P Recycling**  
280 Webber Street, The Dalles  
Mon-Fri 10-6, Sat 8-2.  
Closed Sunday & holidays
- **Dufur Lions Recycling Depot**  
Dufur City Park  
Saturday mornings
- **Newspapers can be taken to:**  
Lions Club trailers at Safeway and Rosauers parking lots  
Hood River
- Mid-Columbia Special Olympics bins by Hollywood Video, Albertsons and The Dalles Middle School  
The Dalles
- St. Peter's Pack 398 bin at St. Mary's Academy, The Dalles

**Bottles and cans with a deposit:**  
Hood River LEO Club Recycling Program  
First Saturday of each month, 9am-1pm  
Rosauers parking lot, Hood River

Home At Last Humane Society  
200 River Road, The Dalles  
(watch for their "Cans for Canines" trailers at area parks and events)



# Composting...Nature's Way of Recycling

## Composting—the "process"

breaking down organic material such as leaves, twigs, grass clippings and vegetative food waste through decomposition by microorganisms

## Compost—the "product"

the dark brown, crumbly soil amendment material that results from effective composting. It contains nutrients, holds water, and creates good plant growing conditions

## Why make compost in your backyard?

Reduce waste & save money

Lower your garbage bill by not putting organic material in your trash can.

Protect the environment

Keep organic material out of the landfill, save landfill space for the future PLUS reduce methane gas production (which contributes to greenhouse gas problems).

Reuse & recycle

Find a good use for organic material by making your own free, nutrient-rich soil amendment.

Show off your green thumb!

Use compost to improve your yard and garden. As a soil conditioner or mulch, it can reduce the amount of water and fertilizer you need, as well as help you grow healthier and more productive plants.



Learn more on-line about composting and where to buy compost bins locally at [www.tricountyrecycle.com](http://www.tricountyrecycle.com) click "Recycle" then "Compost"

## What do you need for composting?

### Carbon-rich materials

The "energy food" for microorganisms

• Plant materials that are dry, tough, fibrous, or tan/brown in color—"browns" Examples: dry leaves, twigs, pine needles, wood chips, cornstalks, straw, rotted hay, sawdust, shredded paper, paper towels/napkins/plates, coffee filters, dryer lint, floor sweepings

### Nitrogen-rich materials

The "protein source" for microorganisms to grow and multiply

• Plant materials that are moist and/or green—"greens" Examples: freshly pulled weeds, fresh grass clippings, over-ripe fruits and vegetables, kitchen scraps such as peels, coffee grounds and tea bags, egg shells  
• Also includes high-protein organic matter such as livestock manures, feathers, pet & human hair

### Water

Acts like "gasoline" or fuel to get your pile working

• Keep your pile as damp as a wrung-out sponge  
• Too much moisture drowns microorganisms but too little will dehydrate them

### Oxygen

The "air flow" in your pile

• To do their work efficiently, microorganisms require a lot of oxygen  
• You can aerate your pile by turning or stirring it occasionally

## Easy-does-it SLOW Composting

### "Make a pile and leave it"

• Just create a pile with a mixture of green and brown materials and keep adding to it  
• In 1 or 2 years, the materials at the bottom will be compost

### "Dig a trench and bury it"

Food scraps (no meat, dairy or oil) are buried in the soil at least 1 foot deep in your flower bed or garden spot

### "Sheet composting"

Lightly scattering leaves, vegetable scraps and grass clippings over your garden spot

## Fast or HOT Composting

• Managing the mix of materials, water and oxygen to speed up the process, usually done with a covered pile or some type of enclosed compost bin  
• Will produce compost in about 2-3 months

## Leftover Paint? Recycle It!

Oregon's first-in-the-nation environmental plan for recycling paint started in July, affecting retailers and customers across the state. The PaintCare "product stewardship" plan makes paint manufacturers more financially responsible for managing products at the end of their useful life, rather than relying on local governments to manage waste disposal programs. Without such programs, leftover paint ends up dumped in landfills, down the drain, or stays in storage for years.

Customers purchasing paint will pay a surcharge or "recovery fee" ranging from 75 cents on gallon of paint to \$1.60 for more than one gallon up to 5 gallons. This fee, as well as funding from paint manufacturers, will pay for a state-wide system to collect paint for recycling. Good quality latex paint will be remixed for retail sale through the MetroPaint recycling facility in Portland. Other leftover paint will be used as cement filler or burned for fuel; these recycling and reuse actions keep material out of landfills and reduce paint waste.

Locally, households and businesses will be able to dispose of leftover latex and oil-based



paints at no charge at Sawyer's TruValue in The Dalles as well as at the hazardous waste collections hosted by the TriCounty Hazardous Waste & Recycling Program. The new PaintCare program will give everyone the chance to properly dispose of old paint for free. For more information, visit [www.paintcare.org](http://www.paintcare.org).

With the new PaintCare program, the TriCounty Hazardous Waste & Recycling Program will be able to collect latex paint, which was not collected previously. Cindy Brown, coordinator, explained that the TriCounty program uses public monies, so has focused on collecting the most toxic chemicals. "Latex paint is a disposal problem but not toxic. Once it is dried out, it can be put in your regular trash. But with the new PaintCare program, we can now dispose of latex paint for free, which helps people get rid of paint especially larger containers."

## Bag Monster!



Representing 1 shopper 1 year using 500 single-use plastic bags

## Remember to bring your reusable shopping bags!

- Attach your grocery list to your bags
- Put bags on the front seat of the car so you remember them
- Keep a bag in your purse or at work for shopping errands
- Store extra bags in your backpack, bike or car so always handy

## FREE Hazardous Waste Collections

### BUSINESS\* AND HOUSEHOLD

**Hood River Garbage** • 3rd Friday of each month • 9am-2pm

September 17 / October 15 / November 19 / December 17

**The Dalles Disposal** • 3rd Saturday of each month • 9am-2pm

September 18 / October 16 / November 20 / December 18

\*PRE-REGISTRATION required for businesses to get an appointment, call our contractor PSC Environmental Services LLC at 1-800-547-2436.

### RURAL BUSINESS\* AND HOUSEHOLD

Odell	September 11	Saturday	10am-2pm	Mid-Valley Mkt, 3380 Odell Hwy
Cascade Locks	September 25	Saturday	10am-2pm	WW Plant, 105 Herman Cr Ln
Tygh Valley	October 9	Saturday	10am-2pm	Mel's Sanitary Service Inc
Mosier	October 23	Saturday	10am-2pm	Mosier Community School

### AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS\*

November 9	Tuesday	10am-2pm	Hood River Garbage Service
November 10	Wednesday	10am-2pm	The Dalles Disposal Service

