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Leaf and Yard Waste

It's that time of year again when the air gets colder, the days get shorter, and we all do our yard work! But what should we do with all that Leaf and Yard waste after the work is done? Lucky for us, leaf and yard waste pick-ups are taking place in October and November. You can check your collection schedule for the leaf symbol to find your pick up day. Just remember that your leaf and yard waste must be in paper yard waste bags, not plastic. Or you can place it in an open top, rigid, reusable containers or cardboard boxes. Also keep in mind that bags or bundles must not exceed 50lbs and individual branches must not exceed 1 inch (2.5 cm) in diameter or 4ft (1.2m) in length. If you have brush that is larger than these dimensions it can be disposed of at the Ottawa Valley Waste Recovery Centre. A tipping fee of \$55 per tonne will apply.

Litterless Lunches

Many schools now encourage students to bring a 'litterless' lunch. This is not only a great idea for our children's lunches but also for our own lunches. A litterless lunch requires only a little planning. A reusable lunch bag is the start. These come in a variety of styles and sizes and anyone can find one that will fit their own needs. For the inside, one reusable container for a drink, one for a sandwich or a thermos for a hot lunch, and one or two more small containers for snacks. These are now purchased relatively inexpensively and will last for a long time especially if you label them clearly with your name so they don't get lost. Other benefits to planning for a litterless lunch are that it allows you to buy snack foods in bulk for less money than it costs to buy individually wrapped items and you can adjust the serving size to avoid paying for wasted food.

Do You Know Where it Goes?

Some materials make us think twice before we throw them away. Is it Recyclable? Can it be Composted? Or is it Garbage?

Plastic Cutlery

That convenient disposable cutlery, both plastic and biodegradable, that we love to use for parties must be disposed of in your regular garbage. Try reusable cutlery instead!

Broken Plastic Toys

The end of the summer can often bring a collection of pails, shovels and other plastic toys that have been broken over the season. These items are not recyclable. In fact, most plastic items that are not original 'containers' should be disposed of in your regular garbage.

"Leave" Your Leaves - Try Leaf Mulching This Fall

Leaf mulching is the process of shredding leaves with a lawnmower and using them as mulch on your lawns and gardens. Essentially, its nature's way to recycle. No one is raking up the leaves that fall in the forest or in parks. They naturally decompose over the winter, returning valuable nutrients to the soil. Not only will leaf mulching return nutrients to the soil, but your lawn and gardens will require less fertilizer and other additives. Leaf mulch also helps retain moisture in soils by lowering the soils' exposure to sun and wind. Mulch acts as an insulator from the cold in the winter and prevents erosion as well as helping to prevent the growth of weeds in the spring.