



Common Myth:



Dumping yard wastes in a stream helps to stabilize the banks

Few, if any property owners think it is acceptable to dump tires, machine parts, plastics, and other unnatural trash into our waterways. But many still believe it is ok to deposit “organic” material like leaves and grass onto a stream bank or into a stream itself. Many even think it is helpful in the erosion battle.

When it comes down to it, even organic wastes are harmful. When yard waste (grass, leaves, pet waste, etc.) is deposited into streams; they begin to decompose and rob the water of critical, life-giving oxygen. As a result, fish kills can occur while the stream becomes unsightly and foul smelling.

Remember when mowing, grass is its own best natural fertilizer. Composed of 90% water, clippings break down quickly. Grass clippings contain valuable nutrients that can generate up to 25 percent of your lawn’s total fertilizer needs. Use a mulching mower to most efficiently break down your grass clippings.

If bagging is more your thing, composting could be your answer. Composting is nature’s way of turning your leaves, grass clippings and vegetable scraps into a soil conditioner. It’s easy and can be a relatively quick process.



Medina County Soil and Water Conservation District

6090 Wedgewood Road • Medina, Ohio • 44256
330-722-2628 ext. 3 • www.medinaswcd.org