

Guide to MS4

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System

March 2023 Edition



Tis the Season to Cut the Grass

As the weather warms and the Spring flowers begin to bloom, so does the grass begin to grow in our yards.

Are you a bagger or a mulcher? Suffice to say that our lawns can be our pride and joy or the bane of our existence. Whether you enjoy mowing or you despise it, deciding what to do with the grass clippings is a decision we all need to make each year. The environmentally friendly decision would be to mulch the clippings back into the yard. Bagging the clippings is a choice that can lead to increased trash each week. That increase in trash leads to more waste in the landfills. Consider alternative options when sprucing up your yard this summer. Maybe the new option could save you valuable time to be spent with your loved ones or pursuing new hobbies.

Safety First

Grass clippings that are blown into the street can be a hazard to cars, motorcycles, and bicycles. Fresh grass clippings in the road can be just as slippery as ice in the winter. The main component in grass is water, whether the grass clippings are wet or dry they still cause dangerous road conditions.

Keep Away From the Drain

Grass clippings contain Nitrogen, Phosphorous, and other elements that can cause harmful effects to water supplies. When grass clippings are blown into the street they can end up in the local waterways causing adverse effects to the stream habitats. Grass clippings can also contaminate waterways with chemicals from lawn maintenance. Pesticides and fertilizers can also cause a negative impact on local Chesapeake Bay Waterways.

Consider Other Uses

In addition to grass clippings in the street looking messy and being an eye sore, consider alternative uses for them. Grass clippings can be beneficial mulch for your yard by providing Nitrogen back to the soil and protecting the yard from drought. Also, grass clippings can be used for a base in flower beds or can be used to feed animals.