



Butler County Department of Recycling & Waste Management

NEWS

Spring 2016

Spring Household Cleaning Tips



How Do I Recycle...

Plastic Seedling Pots and Trays?

Lowes Home Improvement Stores will accept them for recycling:

Butler
724.285.4000

Cranberry
724.778.3232



Spring has arrived and a lot of people will be rolling up their sleeves and starting major cleaning projects in and around their homes. If you're one of those folks you want to do the best, most thorough and effective job possible.

Here are some tips to help you in your efforts:

1. **Donate and Recycle:** Getting rid of things is a huge part of cleaning. But remember not everything belongs in the landfill. First, decide what can be reused and donate as much as possible to local thrift stores and charities. Second, we have trash haulers who help us recycle right at the curb, so make sure things like plastics, glass, cardboard, cans and papers are

properly recycled (call your waste hauler with questions on your curbside recycling service). Scrap metal can be taken to local metal recyclers and you will be paid by the pound for it! If you have any more questions call or email the Butler County Department of Recycling & Waste Management.

2. **Household Hazardous Wastes:** We've all got them — from old household cleaners to paints, pesticides, batteries and more. These are all items that need special attention but never fear—Butler County holds collections for these items throughout the year. This spring, events will be held April 16, May 7th and May 21st. There are fees for collection and you can get all the details by

calling our contractor ECS&R toll-free at 1-866-815-0016.

3. **Household Cleaning Supplies:** Buying eco-friendly cleaning supplies is a good start, but you can also make your own cleaners. Most of your home can be cleaned with recipes that are a combination of hot water, vinegar, and baking soda or washing soda (recipes are readily available on the internet). Since you're only making what you need as you need it you're cutting back on waste, and you won't have any worries about what kind of toxins you may be spraying in your home.



CONTACT INFORMATION:

124 West Diamond St.

PO Box 1208

Butler, PA 16003

Phone (724) 284-5305

Email

skelly@co.butler.pa.us

Web www.recyclebutler.us



Now that yard and garden season is here again, many people are interested in getting their backyard compost piles and bins up and running once more. If you piled up lots of organic matter in the fall you may be surprised to find that it has broken down a fair bit during the winter. This material can be used as a great mulch for your gardens, or can simply

Compost Pile Tune-Up

be combined with new material and turned into really nice compost. Here is some advice on getting that compost "working" again:

1. Take a look in the middle and see what's inside—if there are still big, bulky materials, chop them up a little bit.

2. Start adding kitchen (vegetable) food scraps or yard "greens" if they are available.

3. If the compost is dry, add some water and if too wet, let it dry out or add some "browns" like twigs, leaves, etc.

These are just some very rough ideas. For more detailed information you can call Butler County's Penn State Master Gardeners at 724.287.4761 or search on the internet for "spring composting".

Note: Please bear with us, we are having problems with our web site www.recyclebutler.us and are hoping to have it back up and running soon. In the meantime, please call or email. Thank you for your patience!

MCHUMOR.com by T. McCracken



"Not bad. They gave us \$10.00 a pound for the Tin Man."

Great American Cleanup of Pa.—and Butler County!

If you would like to help clean up Butler County this spring, check out the Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful web site at:

www.gacofpa.org

During the Great American Cleanup of PA, which is from March 1st to May 31st, registered

events can get free clean-up supplies such as bags, gloves and vests donated by PennDOT and Keep America Beautiful. Additionally, during the Pick It Up PA Days, which is from April 16th to May 9th, sponsored by Department of Environmen-

tal Protection, Pennsylvania Waste Industries Association, and participating landfills, registered events have access to reduced or free disposal.



Building a Chicken Coop from Recycled Materials

Building a chicken coop doesn't have to involve going to the hardware store and buying new lumber. Chicken coops can be easily constructed out of materials or you either already have on hand or can get for free or cheap. And the point is, they're things that used to serve another function and now they'll be housing your flock. Repurpose, reuse, upcycle -- whatever you call it, it's cool and it's thrifty!

When planning, you will definitely need some basic knowledge of raising chickens. For this, you can either buy a book on raising chickens at your local farm supply store—or the internet has a lot of good information on how to raise chickens and what they will need as far as housing.

As far as planning your chicken coop, check the internet by searching for "chicken coop" "recycled materials". You will come up with literally hundreds of free ideas and advice on planning and building your coop with recycled materials.

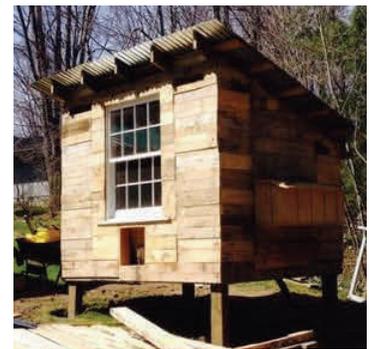
Finding materials can be somewhat of a scavenger hunt and you might not be able to find all the materials in

one place. Scour print and online ads for free and cheap items. A good source for free materials here in Butler County is www.freecycle.org. On the main page search for our local "Butler County, PA" group. You will need to sign in, then you can post a request for what you are looking for. Thrift stores and junkyards can also be good sources of materials and stores that have extra wooden pallets on hand is a good source for reusable wood. (Be sure to ask before taking pallets because many stores reuse them.) Also with spring community cleanup days approaching, you may find reusable windows, doors, etc. at the curb that would otherwise be headed for the landfill. Just remember to ask before taking.

If you need more information on this subject, please call the Butler County Department of Recycling & Waste Management at 724.284.5305 or email skelly@co.butler.pa.us



Old buckets as nesting boxes



Coop made from recycled pallets



A repurposed dog box



An old dresser

Note: Always check your local municipal ordinances to be sure you can have chickens or if there are any building requirements.