

## According to turf experts, grass clippings:

-  reduce water evaporation from the lawn;
-  reduce lawn wear by creating a cushioning layer; and
-  facilitate better growth by keeping the soil temperature cooler.



Baltimore County Bureau of Solid Waste Mgmt.  
[www.baltimorecountymd.gov/recycling](http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/recycling)  
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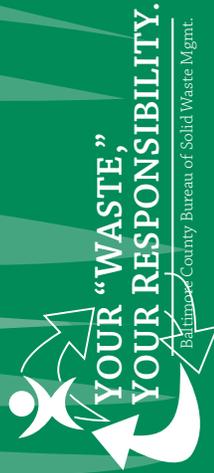


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# Why Bag Your Grass?

Cut it High & Let it Lie!



## After all, lawn maintenance is work.

And bagging your lawn clippings is probably the most time-consuming part of the job. Sure, your lawn looks great afterwards. But, the bigger your lawn, the more clippings, bags, and the more exhausting the process.

## Now, consider for a moment not bagging your grass.

Gone is the hassle of stopping every ten minutes to empty the mower bag, raking, and wrestling with expensive bags. Instead of causing you trouble, your clippings remain on the lawn, working their way back into the soil.

## You may say,

not bagging your grass is unhealthy, and will cause excessive thatch build-up or even kill your lawn.

## The fact is,

grass clippings can actually help you to maintain a vigorous, more durable lawn.

## But, there is one added reason for leaving your clippings on the lawn.



During the summer months, grass clippings account for a whopping 24% of residential trash. Every grass blade you leave behind will keep one grass blade out of the collection truck. With yard materials management costs rising and an environment to protect, that just makes sense.

## Now, this is not an all-or-nothing proposition...

to bag or not to bag. You may choose to collect your clippings every third time you mow... or every other time. Regardless, you are creating a savings for you and the environment. The more you can keep on your lawn, the better!



## Of course, this process requires some attention to lawn maintenance...

but it's the kind of attention all lawns should have on a regular basis.



Don't let your lawn become a hay field before mowing. The clippings should be no more than one inch long in order to fall through the grass and onto the soil.



Use a sharp mower blade (a mulching mower if you have one). The sharper the blade, the finer the clippings, and the faster they decompose. (If you have trouble using your mower without the bagger, call your hardware store or dealer for assistance.)



Avoid over-fertilizing your lawn. If it becomes too dense with growth, your clippings won't be able to reach the soil to decompose.



Remove excessive thatch before leaving your clippings on the lawn. Although *1/2 inch of thatch is ideal*, a thick layer will keep clippings from reaching the soil.



Always mow your lawn when it's dry. If the grass is wet, the clippings will clump under the mower and won't be able to filter down to the soil.

## Remember,

these are practices all lawn owners should follow, whether or not they leave clippings on the lawn. With the right attention, your lawn should be able to recycle its clippings *and* retain its good health.