



## City of Davis Public Works Department

1717 Fifth Street Davis, CA 95616

530-757-5686 FAX: 530-758-4738

Environmental Column

October 9, 2009

By Jennifer Gilbert, Conservation Coordinator for the City of Davis

Autumn is here—'tis the season for leaf piles! Please be sure to give your yard waste piles a little T.L.C.:

**TIMING**—Place your yard waste on the street as close to your scheduled pick-up date as possible. If your gardeners come the day after your yard waste is picked up, your yard waste will sit in the street all week long. Please ask your gardeners to come the day before your yard waste is picked-up instead. Check [www.davisrecycling.org](http://www.davisrecycling.org) for the yard waste pick-up schedule.

**LIMIT THE SIZE**—Yard waste piles should be no larger than 5 feet in any dimension and placed 18 inches from your curb or gutter. Be aware that yard waste piles can create serious hazards for cyclists; **BIKE LANES SHOULD NEVER BE BLOCKED!** This may mean that your pile cannot be 5 feet wide if it obstructs the bike lane.

**COMPOSTING**—Instead of putting your yard waste on the street, try composting it yourself!

The City of Davis Recycling Program is offering free composting classes October 9 and 16 at 3:00pm, and October 10 and 17 at 10:00am. The classes will be held at the Compost Demonstration Area in the Community Gardens on 5th Street. Classes run about 45 minutes and will cover both backyard composting and worm composting. After attending a class, Davis residents can receive a starter set of composting worms and residents in single-family homes can receive a free compost bin. To register, call the Public Works Department at 757-5686 or email [pwweb@cityofdavis.org](mailto:pwweb@cityofdavis.org). There is no seating available, so please BYOC--bring your own chair.

Per city code, yard material will only be picked up if it is located directly in front of a house. **PLEASE DO NOT** place your yard waste pile across the street or around the corner—it will not be picked up! Also, please do not block fire hydrants, storm drain inlets and driveways.

Streets are usually swept the day after yard waste has been picked up. In order to clean gutters, please try to park your car off the street on street sweeping day. Leaf litter piled up in the gutters can impede drainage and lead to standing water. Please help us keep our streets clean by moving your car on street sweeping day!

### CONSERVE WATER AND SAVE MONEY ON YOUR SEWER BILL

Reducing the amount of water you use can have a large effect on your water and sewer bill. Last year, the City Council adopted a methodology for variable sewer rates based on

water usage. Instead of a flat fee, sewer rates are now calculated using the average monthly winter water consumption. The methodology places an emphasis on estimating how much water is going down the sewer. Water used during the months of November through February is averaged; during this time, water used for irrigation is at a minimum.

To conserve water and save money on your sewer bill, be sure to re-set your irrigation timers for fall and winter. Here are some other tips to help you conserve water and lower your water and sewer bill:

- Don't allow sprinklers to water your street, driveway, or sidewalk.
- Defrost items in the refrigerator or microwave instead of under running water.
- Run the clothes washer and dishwasher with full loads.
- Mulch plants to reduce evaporation and weed growth.
- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways and sidewalks.

For more water conservation tips, see [www.cityofdavis.org/pw/water/conserve](http://www.cityofdavis.org/pw/water/conserve).

### FREE HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP-OFF EVENT

Don't miss this month's free household hazardous waste (HHW) drop-off events, October 9 and 10, from 9:00am to 2:00pm at the Yolo County Central Landfill. Bring in your empty propane canisters, pesticides, fluorescent light bulbs, household cleaners, expired medicines and more for FREE and safe disposal. Mark your calendar for the HHW drop-off dates next month, November 13 and 14. Remember—during each HHW drop-off event reusable items such as paints, fertilizers, household cleaners and more are available for FREE.

For more information, visit [www.davisrecycling.org](http://www.davisrecycling.org) or email me at [PWweb@cityofdavis.org](mailto:PWweb@cityofdavis.org).