



The Green Recycler

April 2009

Save Green and be Green...*RECYCLE!*

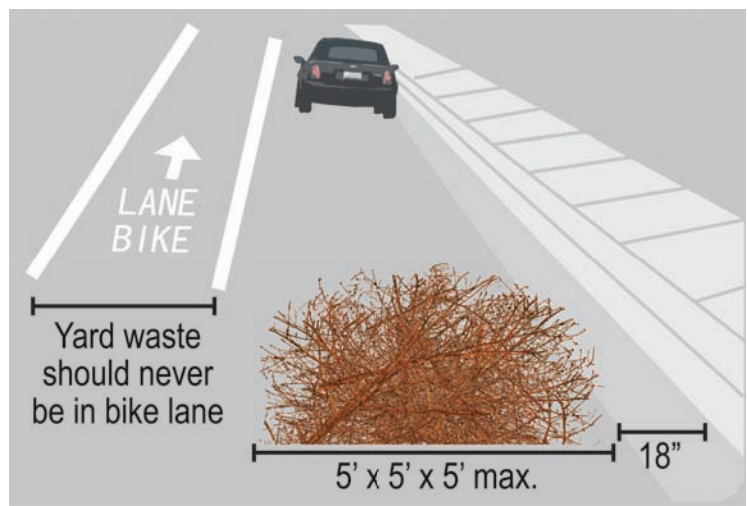
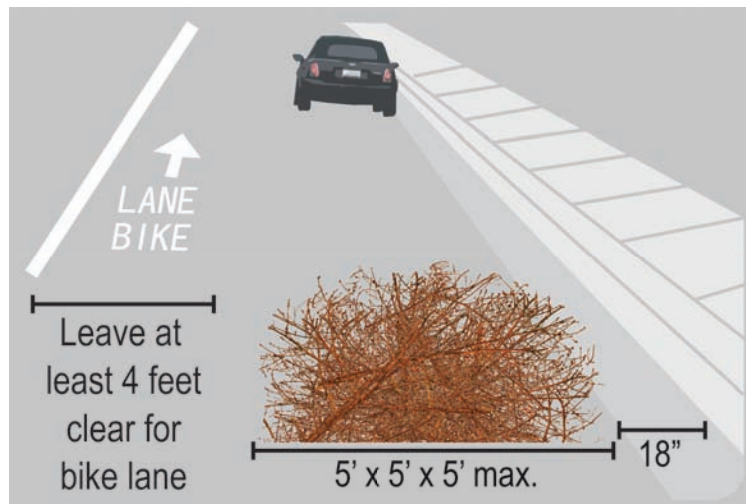
Yard Material Piles

It's spring! With spring comes gardening and the inevitable piles of yard material. To make disposal of yard material easy for you and safe for others, please follow these guidelines:

- Place yard materials directly in front of your property—not across the street or around the corner—it will not be picked up!
- Place your yard material 18" from the curb or gutter.
- Yard material piles should never be larger than 5 feet in any dimension.
- Do not block fire hydrants, driveways or storm drain inlets with yard waste piles.
- Do not park or drive over yard materials.
- Do not place yard materials in bags—leave them loose in piles on the street.

Be aware that yard material piles can create serious hazards for cyclists; **bike lanes should never be blocked**. This may mean that your yard waste pile cannot be 5 feet wide if it obstructs the bike lane. Please be aware that yard material piles can cause cyclists to crash by slipping or getting branches stuck in their wheel spokes; due to their low profile and non-uniform size, cyclists may not see the piles until they come upon them, especially in the absence of street lighting.

Yard material placement— single-striped bike lane and double striped bike lane



Working Together to Conserve Water

One of the biggest sources of wasted water comes from irrigation. Please irrigate your landscape only when necessary. Do your part and adjust your irrigation timers accordingly.

If you don't have automatic irrigation, consider purchasing a hose timer. The timer can be set for variable lengths of time and will automatically shut off at the designated time. This will ensure that the area will not be over watered, even if you get distracted and leave the water running.



Working Together to Conserve Water

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Other easy ways you can conserve water: Fix leaky faucets—a leak could mean 360 gallons of water lost each day.

We need everyone's help to conserve water. Please be conscious when you turn on the tap, every drop is important. Here are more ways your business can conserve water:

- Water your landscape early in the morning or late at night when it cools to reduce water loss due to evaporation.
- Let your grass grow a little taller to increase the moisture retention of the soil.
- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean the sidewalk and driveway. You'll get a good workout and you'll save water. Keep in mind that an average garden hose uses 650+ gallons per hour!
- Apply mulch to your landscape to improve the quality of your soil and to maintain soil moisture.
- Install matched precipitation rate sprinkler heads in turf areas.
- Test irrigation sprinklers 4 times per irrigation season to ensure proper operation and coverage and repair all broken or defective sprinkler heads/nozzles, lines and valves.
- Adjust sprinklers for proper coverage—optimize spacing, avoid runoff onto paved surfaces.
- Use repeat cycles when watering turf or shrubs to encourage percolation and deep root growth.



- Adjust the irrigation schedule monthly during irrigation season, or as needed.
- Modify your existing irrigation system to include drip irrigation, where feasible.
- Install water efficient shrubs, ground cover, cobblestones, brick, or mulch in place of turf.
- If installing new turf, limit area and use drought tolerant species, space sprinkler heads such that the water from one sprinkler head reaches the adjacent sprinkler heads.
- Install rain shut-off devices so that the irrigation controllers do not water plants when it is raining.
- Hydrozone: Group plants with similar water requirements together on the same irrigation line and separate plants with different water requirements on separate irrigation lines.
- Install a self-adjusting weather-based irrigation controller that automatically tailors watering schedules to match local weather, plant types, and other site-specific conditions.

More water conservation tips are available online at www.cityofdavis.org.

FREE RECYCLING CONTAINER

Want a free recycling container?

The California Department of Conservation offers a free recycling kit that includes a recycling container, posters, and information on starting a successful recycling program.

Free recycling kits are available online at www.bottlesandcans.com. Just click on *Start a recycling program*.

