

A Newsletter Of



Office of the Clean City
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clean&greenDC

Keeping the District of Columbia clean and green is easier when you and your family follow the step-by-step instructions provided by clean&greenDC, which is a special program of the Office of the Clean City. Whether the topic is litter reduction, waste reduction, community beautification, or environmental protection, clean&greenDC can guide you and your family as we work together to create a cleaner, healthier environment in the District of Columbia. The clean&greenDC program encourages residents (people like you!) to take action and work along with city government to help clean up sidewalks, curbsides, parks, wooded areas, vacant lots, and waterways.

To learn more about clean&greenDC, visit this website, www.CleanCity.dc.gov, and look for clean&greenDC items under "Information."

Mantener el Distrito de Columbia limpio y verde es mucho más fácil cuando usted sigue paso a paso las instrucciones del programa especial "Clean&greenDC" de la Oficina de Clean City. Ya sea que se trate de reducir la basura de las calles, reducir los desperdicios, embeceller la comunidad, o proteger el ambiente, este programa puede guiar a usted y a su familia para que trabajemos unidos y así lograr un ambiente más limpio y sano en el Distrito de Columbia. Para aprender más sobre el programa "Clean&greenDC" visite la página de internet www.CleanCity.dc.gov y localice los artículos de Clean&greenDC bajo el encabezado de "Información."



Take the Challenge: Clean Up Your Neighborhood

We are challenging all schools to help clean up and beautify their neighborhoods. Litter and trash in your neighborhood and in green spaces are unpleasant, bad for the environment, unhealthy, and can create a welcome home for crime. Students, teachers, and neighbors can work together to clean up the area around their schools and homes by picking up

trash and litter and planting trees and flowers.

To support the schools that take part in this challenge, we offer teacher training on the award-winning environmental education curriculum, Project Learning Tree (www.plt.org). After teachers have completed the training, they can qualify for a GreenWorks Grant (\$50 to \$1,000) for their school.

As a part of the challenge, schools can do schoolyard habitat projects, conduct a series of neighborhood cleanups, undertake energy and trash audits, or establish and maintain a successful recycling program. At the end of each school year, one school from each level will be recognized for its efforts.

For more information about participating in this program, please call the Office of the Clean City at (202) 724-8967.



Schoolyard Habitat Project Ideas

- Creating a butterfly garden
- Storm drain marking
- Tree planting
- Reducing lawn size by creating a new garden bed

Making lighter work of fall leaves

The leaves are beginning to change colors, showing off bright yellows, oranges, and reds. Enjoy! Before long, those leaves will be brown and spread over the ground, where your family may expect your help picking them up.

Now is a great time to talk with your family about fall leaves. No, not to get out of helping! Talk to your family about the ways that you can reuse fall leaves. Here are our suggestions:

- Shred the leaves with a mulching mower (or a mower with the bagger removed) and let them stay on the grass. These shredded leaves will provide a protective winter cover and decompose by spring. If you have a lot of leaves, you'll need to mow often during the weeks with the heaviest leaf-fall.
- Pick up leaves with your family's bagging mower. The mower will shred the leaves as it picks them up, creating a great mulch. Use the leaf mulch in your gardens or flower beds.
- Add shredded or whole leaves to your compost pile. Shredded leaves will decompose faster, but whole leaves will also break down into nutrient-rich compost. Inside a tightly sealed compost bin, mixing fall leaves with over-ripe fruit and vegetables and grass clippings will help the material decompose more quickly.

You can also recycle your yard waste by bagging leaves, brush, and grass clippings separately from trash. This bagged yard waste is picked up on your regular trash collection day. (If you have twice-a-week trash collection, yard waste is collected on your second weekly trash day.) Each fall, the Department of Public Works collects nearly 10 tons of leaves, which are turned into mulch and compost. Garden clubs, community groups, and city agencies use this mulch and compost throughout the next year.

Reduzca los desperdicios orgánicos de su jardín dejando el pasto que poda directamente en su jardín. Este proceso se conoce como grasscycling, mulching, o composting.

También puede reciclar su basura del jardín embolsando las hojas, poda y los desperdicios de pasto separadamente de su otra basura. Saque la bolsa con su otra basura el día que le corresponde recibir el servicio. (Si usted recibe el servicio dos veces por semana, los desperdicios del jardín serán recogidos el segundo día.)

Estamos retando a las escuelas a que ayuden a limpiar y embellecer sus alrededores. La basura y desperdicios que se tiran en los vecindarios y en las áreas verdes son desagradables, malos para el ambiente, no son saludables y pueden atraer el crimen. Estudiantes, maestros y vecinos pueden trabajar juntos recogiendo la basura y plantando árboles y flores y así limpiar las áreas alrededor de sus escuelas y hogares.

Como apoyo a las escuelas que han aceptado este reto estamos ofreciendo entrenamiento a los maestros sobre el proyecto Learning Tree (árbol aprendiz.) Una vez que los maestros hayan completado el entrenamiento, pueden calificar para ganar para su escuela un premio (\$50 a \$1,000.)

Para más información acerca de como participar en este programa, favor de llamar a la Oficina de Clean City al (202) 724-8967.

10 Tips for Reuse

Here are some easy ways to increase your reuse of items. While you reuse, you'll reduce your waste and use both your personal resources and our natural resources more wisely.

1. Use the library. Your local library is a treasure trove of books, videos, CDs, magazines, and much more. If you are looking for something the library doesn't have, ask a librarian to help you arrange for an "inter-library loan." This allows your library to borrow the item from another library and then loan it out to you. Don't forget college and university libraries. Check their websites or call for details.
2. Become a bag person. Carry your own bags. They are great for trips to the library or purchases when you are running errands.
3. Be a renter. Rent the things that you don't need to own, such as new release movies, a lawn edger, or a party tent. If you need something now but only need to use it once or twice, rent it!
4. Borrow items that you need, loan what you have, or share seldom-used items with friends and family members. This is much like renting—you get what you need now—but it is cheaper, of course. Borrow a crib from a neighbor for a child's short visit. Loan a great game to a friend after you have played it a few times. Share a magazine subscription with a friend who shares your hobby or interests.
5. Avoid "use & toss" products, including disposable "wipes" for house cleaning and hand wiping. By 2008, \$3.1 billion worth of disposable wipes, weighing more than 100,000 tons, will be sold each year. In most of the situations where wipes are being used, rags, washable cleaning cloths or sponges, or washcloths and towels would be just as easy to use

and more environmentally friendly. Wipes are handy on-the-go (in the car or at a soccer game), but do you need to use them at home?

6. Create a "fun box." Old crayons and markers, scraps of fabric from old projects, and more can go into your family "fun box." Keep your scraps together so that when you need craft supplies, you can hit your fun box rather than head to the mall.
7. Wrap it up! Empty shoe boxes wrapped in reused wrapping paper, calendar pages, old photo collages, or magazine pages make decorative and useful storage boxes. Gift-giving time? Make a basket or lunch box part of the gift and you've created a gift and wrapper in one. Use paper or fabric gift bags. Wrap gifts in reused newspaper, wallpaper scraps, or other "recovered" materials.
8. Remember "hand-me-downs"? If you are cleaning out your clothes closet, don't head for the trash. Instead, pass the clothes along to a friend or family member who will wear them, sell them at a garage sale or to a reuse shop, or donate them to a charity. If you are looking for clothes, shop reused first.
9. Fix 'er up! When you repair what you already have, you usually save money and always ensure that the things in which you have already invested last longer. For instance, a home computer can be a large investment. If the DVD drive quits working, it is a simple (and inexpensive) fix to get it up and running again.
10. Maintain what you have. The better care that you give to durable items, from home appliances to tires, the longer they will last. You'll be able to use and reuse your own stuff for much longer!



10 Consejos para Re-usar

Estas son algunas de las maneras fáciles que le ayudarán a aumentar el re-uso de las cosas, a reducir su basura y a utilizar mejor tanto sus recursos personales como los de la naturaleza.

1. Use los servicios de la biblioteca.
2. Lleve consigo sus propias bolsas de manta, mochilas, o del mandado.
3. Rente las cosas que no necesita poseer pero que solo utilizará una o dos veces.
4. Pida prestado artículos que necesite, preste los que usted tiene. Comparta con amigos y familiares aquellos artículos que usa de vez en cuando.
5. Evite usar productos de "uso & desecho", incluyendo toallas desechables para la limpieza de la casa y para limpiarse las manos. Es mejor usar trapos y toallas que se puedan lavar.
6. Haga una caja para guardar materiales para artesanías, incluya marcadores, pinturas, pedazos de tela y papel.
7. Vuelva a usar el papel de sus regalos envolviendo sus cajas de zapatos para usarlas para guardar cosas. Utilice bolsas de tela o de papel para envolver sus regalos. También puede envolver sus regalos en periódico, en sobrantes de papel tapiz, o en cualquier otro material que pueda "salvar."
8. Regale la ropa que ya no quiere a un amigo o a un miembro de la familia para que ellos la usen, o bien véndala en una venta de garage o a una tienda de segunda mano, o done su ropa a una empresa sin lucro de fondos. Si usted anda buscando comprar ropa, búsquela primero donde vendan ropa usada.
9. Repare lo que ya tiene para ahorrar dinero.
10. Dé mantenimiento a las cosas que tiene. Entre mejor cuide sus pertenencias durables, más le durarán.

The long and rewinding road

Are you a frequent traveler? Whether you are flying or driving, you can read, enjoy, and reuse!

At about 60 airports across the country, travelers can purchase a book from one of Paradies Shops 200 participating stores and return it to any of the participating Paradies stores within six months. That means you could pick up the book at the Reno airport, read it while you're traveling in New York, and return it to the Albany airport before your return flight.

When you return the book, you'll be refunded half of the original price. (You must have your receipt, but when you buy the book, the clerk will either tape it into the book or staple it to a free bookmark.) Your book will in turn be sold as a "pre-read" book. Only pre-read books in good condition are sold; however, the company reports that almost all of the returned books are in resalable condition. Those that are not are donated to local charities. The next time you travel and are purchasing book, ask whether the store participates in the Paradies "Read and Return" program.

Not flying? You can still "read" and return through the "Books-on-Audio" program at Cracker Barrel Old Country Stores. You buy the audiobook on cassette or CD at the list price (\$9.99 to \$48) and enjoy it as you travel. When you are done, you stop by another Cracker Barrel Old Country Store and return it. You'll be refunded the purchase price minus a weekly rental fee of \$3.49. You can buy the book at one Cracker Barrel Old Country Store and return it to another in a different city or state.

So read and reuse!



Un largo y sinuoso camino

¡Ya sea que usted vuele o maneje, usted puede leer, divertirse y volver a usar las cosas! En aproximadamente 60 de los aeropuertos a lo largo del país, los viajeros pueden comprar un libro de una de las 200 tiendas Paradies Shops y regresarlo a cualquier de las tiendas Paradies en un término de seis meses. Con su recibo original se le devolverá la mitad del precio de su libro "leído." Otra opción es escuchar un libro mientras maneja a través del programa "Libros en Audio" de la tienda Cracker Barrel Old Country. Usted compra el libro en audio en cassette al precio de lista (\$9.99 - \$48) y lo regresa cuando termine para que le devuelvan su dinero menos un cargo de renta de \$3.49 por semana.

QUOTES REQUOTED

We are aware that our children and the future generations have a right to a world which will also need energy, should be free of pollution, should be rich with biological diversity and should have a climate which will sustain all forms of life.

Wangari Maathai, Winner of the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize

In 1977, Wangari Maathai founded the "Green Belt Movement," which has helped African women plant 30 million trees, providing fuel, food, shelter, and income to support their families.

Citas citables

Estamos conscientes de que nuestros hijos y las futuras generaciones tienen derecho a un mundo que también necesitará energía, que sea libre de contaminaciones, rico en diversidad biológica y que tenga un clima que pueda sostener toda forma de vida.

Wangari Maathai, Ganador del Premio Nobel de la Paz del 2004

En 1977, Wangari Maathai fundó el movimiento "Green Belt Movement," el cual ha ayudado a mujeres africanas a plantar 30 millones de árboles, mismos que proveen combustible, comida, albergue e ingresos para el sustento de sus familias.



Photo credit: Martin Rowe

Living more lightly

E Magazine recently published *Green Living*, a handbook for living lightly on the earth. This guidebook is designed to help you make informed choices.

Each of its 14 chapters explains the contents and effects of products that are commonly used, outlines alternatives, and provides a long list of resources. Look for *Green Living: The E*



Magazine Handbook for Living Lightly on the Earth (Plume, 2005) at your library or bookstore. Remember—check the used bookstore first!

If you enjoy this book, you might also look for *The Newman's Own Organics Guide to a Good Life: Simple Measures That Benefit You and the Place You Live* by Nell Newman (Villard, 2003).

Viviendo más ligeramente

Le recomendamos busque en su biblioteca o en la tienda—recuerde buscar primero en la tienda de libros usados—los siguientes materiales: *Green Living: The E Magazine Handbook for Living Lightly on the Earth* (Plume, 2005) (La Vida en Verde: Un manual para vivir ligeramente en la tierra) o busque *The Newman's Own Organics Guide to a Good Life: Simple Measures That Benefit You and the Place You Live* por Nell Newman (Villard, 2003) (La guía propia de Newman para una buena vida: medidas simples para su beneficio y el del lugar donde vive).

When is bulk packaging right for you?

Buying in bulk can reduce the amount of packaging waste that you throw away or recycle and, often, save you money, too. However, is buying in bulk always the best choice? That depends. Before you buy, consider what you need and how you will use the product.

Buying a huge container of something you are sure to use and which won't "go bad" is almost always your best bet. For example, laundry detergent doesn't spoil, so pick up the larger container.

Choosing the super-size jug of milk may be a good idea if you will consume the milk before it spoils. If you won't, a small bottle or even powdered milk might be a better option. In other words, think about the potential product waste, especially when looking at perishable food and beverages.

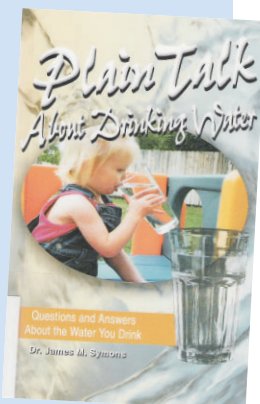
The huge container also may not be the best choice when you are buying hazardous products. Will you use up the product you are buying? Or will you end up disposing of it at a hazardous waste collection? If you aren't sure, buy the smaller container.

As you shop, look for containers that are the right size for your family and your needs, while creating the least amount of waste possible.

Bulk buy your water

"Tap water" costs many times less per gallon than bottled water. In fact, a gallon of municipal tap water costs a penny or less in most places, while the same amount of water in individual, single-serve bottles may cost \$10. Rather than buying expensive, pre-filled bottles that you carry home and then need to recycle, purchase water "in bulk" by using your own tap water. You can fill reusable bottles. Be sure to wash them thoroughly between uses.

Read more about drinking water in *Plain Talk About Drinking Water: Questions and Answers About the Water You Drink* by Dr. James M. Symons (American Water Works Association, 2001).

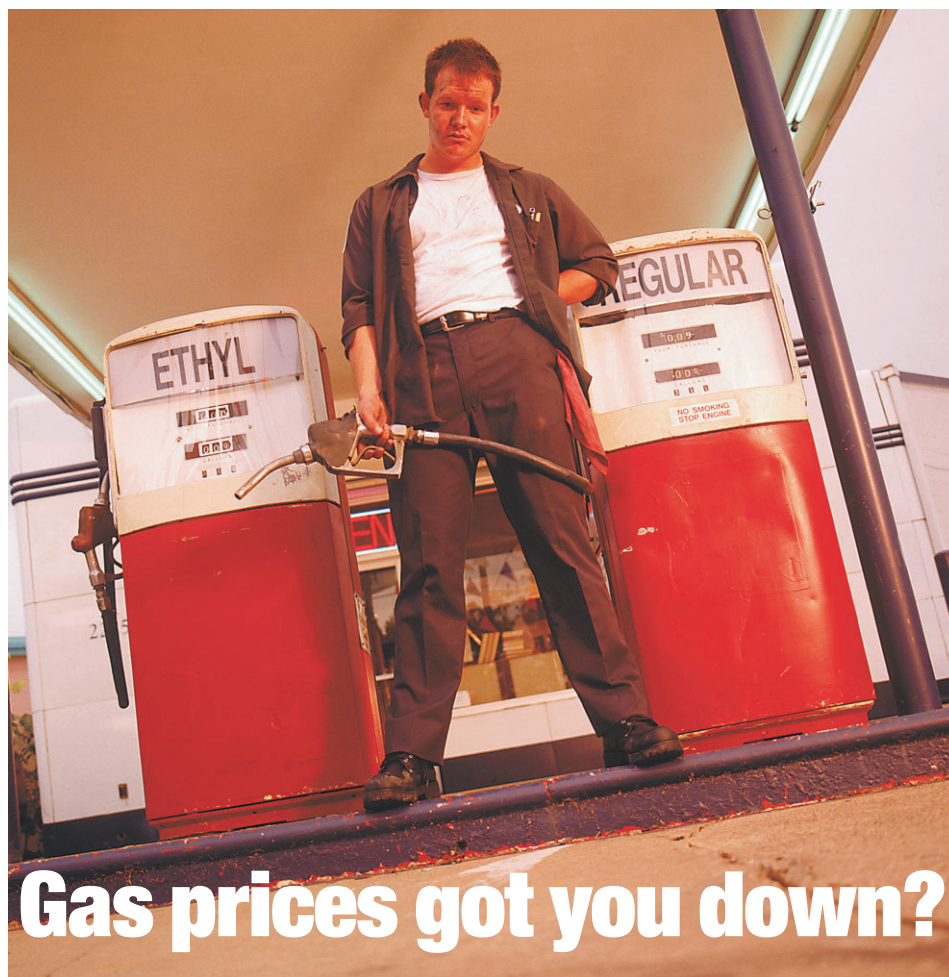


¿Cuándo es el empaque a mayoreo correcto para usted?

Comprar a mayoreo reduce la cantidad de basura de empaque que usted tira o que recicla y, muy frecuentemente, también le ahorra dinero. Sin embargo, ¿es la mejor decisión comprar siempre al mayoreo? Todo depende. Antes de comprar considere lo que necesita y como va a utilizar el producto. Compre productos al mayoreo solo si no se le van a hechar a perder o si no los va a desperdiciar.

Compre el agua al mayoreo

"El agua para tomar" cuesta mucho menos por galón que embotellada. En lugar de comprar las caras botellas comerciales que tiene que llevar a casa y reciclar, consume su agua "al mayoreo" usando el agua de su propia casa. Rellene y utilice las botellas cuantas veces sea necesario, y asegúrese de lavarlas cuando las vuelva a llenar.



Gas prices got you down?

Fuel prices, which have shot up this year, are affecting everything from weekend trips to car sales to home heating and air conditioning costs. When you reduce your fuel use, you save money, cut harmful emissions, and eliminate waste. Here are some ideas to get you started:

- Turn off lights and appliances when they aren't in use. While your refrigerator does need to run all the time, your TV doesn't.
- Plan your errands to reduce the number of trips you make.
- Walk or bike instead of driving.
- Buying a new vehicle? Consider a hybrid. Hybrids, which draw part of their power from a battery, reduce your use of gasoline and have lower emissions. Unlike older electric vehicles, hybrids do not have to be plugged in.
- Choose fuels such as ethanol (a mixture of gasoline and a crop such as corn or a crop waste such as sugar cane stalks) or biodiesel (a mixture of diesel fuel and vegetable oil), when available.
- Talk to your electric utility provider to find out how much of your utility's electricity comes from renewable sources, such as wind power or solar.
- Rake your leaves or sweep your driveway instead of using a leaf blower. A gas-powered leaf blower emits a lot of pollution. Also, there is no chance of spilling or needing to dispose of hazardous gas or oil.
- Insulate around doors and windows to eliminate heating and cooling losses. An old, rolled towel can keep your valuable heated or cooled air from escaping under doors.

Look for more energy-reducing tips at these U.S. Department of Energy websites: www.energy.gov (click on "Energy Saving Tips") or www.EnergyHog.org.

¿Bajaron los precios del gas?

Cuando usted reduce su consumo de combustible usted ahorra dinero, ayuda a reducir las dañinas emisiones y elimina desperdicios:

- Apague las luces y los aparatos cuando no los esté usando. ¡Aunque el refrigerador necesita estar operando todo el tiempo, la televisión NO!
- Haga una lista de lo que tiene que hacer y planee sus viajes para reducir el número de vueltas que tenga que dar a la calle.
- Camine o use la bicicleta en lugar de manejar.
- Considere obtener un vehículo hybrid. Los vehículos hybrids generan parte de su potencia a través de una batería reduciendo así el consumo de gasolina y la emisión de gases.
- Cuando tenga la opción, escoga combustibles tales como el ethanol (una mezcla de gasolina con maíz o plante el desecho) o biodiesel (una mezcla de combustible diesel con aceite vegetal.)
- Comuníquese con su proveedor de electricidad y averigüe que cantidad de su electricidad proviene de recursos renovables, tales como el viento.
- En lugar de usar una sopladora de hojas, barra sus hojas. La sopladora de hojas emite muchísima contaminación. También, con una escoba o un rastrillo de jardín se evita el desperdicio o tener que deshacerse de materiales tóxicos como lo son la gasolina y el aceite.
- Coloque una toalla hecha rollito a lo largo de la base de sus puertas y ventanas y asegúrese de que estén adecuadamente aisladas para evitar la fuga del aire acondicionado o de la calefacción.

Consulte la página de internet del Departamento de Energía de los Estados Unidos www.energy.gov (seleccione "Energy Saving Tips") o www.EnergyHog.org. Donde encontrará muchos consejos para ahorrar energía.



The Freecycle Network, www.freecycle.org, provides individuals and non-profits an electronic forum (an e-mail list, or "listserv") to reuse or recycle unwanted items. Currently in the community group "freecycleDC," there are 9,400 members who are giving (and getting) "stuff" for free instead of putting it in the landfill. Membership in the group is free.

How does Freecycle work? When you want to find a new home for something—whether it's a chair, a fax machine, a piano, or an old door—you simply send an e-mail offering it to members of your Freecycle group.

Or, maybe you're looking to acquire something yourself. Simply respond to a member's offer, and you just might get it. After that, it's up to the giver to decide who receives the gift and to set up a pick-up time for passing on the treasure.

One main rule: Everything posted must be FREE, legal, and appropriate for all ages.

One person's trash can truly be another's treasure!

La red, The Freecycle Network, www.freecycle.org, facilita una avenida electrónica para que tanto individuos como organizaciones sin lucro de fondos puedan "reciclar" los artículos que ya no necesitan o desean. La red cuenta actualmente con 9,400 miembros quienes dan (y reciben) "cosas" gratis y así evitan llenar los basureros de cosas que se pueden utilizar. La membresía es gratuita. Todo lo que se ofrece debe de ser GRATIS, legal y apropiado para todas las edades.



We want your suggestions, questions, and comments!

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**PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER
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CONTENT, USING SOY INKS**

*Please recycle this publication
after you have read it!*

You can make a difference

You don't have to be a grownup to make a difference. There are many things that you can do. Here are some ideas that will get you started:

- Be sure your trash goes in the trash can, not just near it.
- Pick up after yourself at a picnic or a fast-food restaurant.
- Never throw anything from a car, truck, or bus.
- Always set an example by not littering—no matter where you are.
- Pick up litter and trash daily and recycle the cans and bottles.
- Sweep sidewalks, curbsides, and alleys weekly.
- Remove your trash container(s) and recycling bin from public space by 8 p.m. on collection day. Be sure to keep trash containers closed and secure.
- Participate in the District's recycling program. If you live in an apartment building, ask an adult in your family to talk to your landlord about starting a recycling program.
- If you see clogged storm drains where water backs up during or after storms, ask an adult to call the DC WASA at (202) 612-3400 or visit www.dcwasa.com.
- Conduct a community cleanup. You can borrow tools and get free trash bags for your cleanup from the DPW Helping Hand Program. Have an adult call (202) 727-1000. When you're done, contact the Office of the Clean City to let us know about your efforts.
- Do not put trash, debris, motor oil, grass clippings, yard waste, or any other materials into storm drains. Nothing but water should go into storm drains. Storm water doesn't get treated and goes directly into our rivers, bays, and the ocean.

Hay muchas cosas que usted puede hacer para marcar la diferencia. Recoga su basura cuando vaya de día de campo o cuando coma en un restaurante de comida rápida. Nunca tire basura fuera del carro, camión o autobús. Recoga la basura y los desperdicios todos los días y recicle las latas y botellas. Semanalmente barra la acera, la calle y los pasillos. El día que le recogen su basura, no deje sus botes de basura a la vista del público y recógalos antes de las 8 p.m. Asegúrese de mantener sus botes de basura cerrados y seguros. Participe en los programas de reciclaje de las calles del Distrito. No deje basura, desperdicios, aceite de motores, poda de pasto, basura del jardín, o cualquier otro material en las coladeras de drenaje.

El Distrito de Columbia provee servicios a la ciudad que pueden ser de ayuda para usted, su familia y sus vecinos. Si necesita ayuda favor de llamar al Mayor's Citywide Call Center al (202) 727-1000 o conéctese al internet al www.dc.gov.



The Government of the District of Columbia provides city services that can help you, your family, and your neighbors. These services are available by calling the Mayor's Citywide Call Center at (202) 727-1000 or logging onto www.dc.gov:

- | | |
|---|---|
| • Graffiti removal | • Report missed trash or recycling collection |
| • Illegal dumping cleanup and enforcement | • Request parking enforcement |
| • Bulk trash removal | • Sidewalk repair |
| • Street or alley light repair | • Household hazardous waste collection |
| • Street or alley cleaning | • Removal of abandoned vehicles |
| • Dead animal removal | • Removal of dead tree or stump |
| • Removal of signs/posters | |
| • Free mulch for gardens | |
| • Tree trimming, planting | |

Prevent Graffiti: Get the Facts

What is graffiti?

You've probably seen graffiti somewhere in your community. It's the words, colors, and shapes drawn or scratched on buildings, overpasses, train cars, desks, and other surfaces. It's done without permission, and it's against the law. The FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program considers graffiti vandalism.

How is a community really "hurt" by graffiti?

Graffiti sends the signal that nobody cares, attracting other forms of crime and street delinquency to the neighborhood. Graffiti drains tax dollars. Funds that could be used for schools, roads, parks, and other community improvements are used for graffiti cleanup. Graffiti decreases a resident's feeling of safety. Neighborhoods with graffiti see a decrease in property values, loss of business growth and tourism, and reduced rider-ship on transit systems.

What is the best way to prevent graffiti?

The most effective way to prevent graffiti is to remove it promptly. While this may be difficult, studies show that removal within 24 to 48 hours results in a nearly zero rate of reoccurrence. Citizens can report graffiti to (202) 727-1000. Citizens can also "adopt-a-spot" and keep it graffiti-free. Or, after getting the owner's permission, turn a graffiti-plagued wall into a mural. Paint-brush murals are almost never hit with graffiti.

10 Things You Can Do To Prevent Graffiti

1. Get educated. Learn about graffiti, how it impacts your community, and who is responsible for graffiti prevention and cleanup in your area.
2. Report graffiti to (202) 727-1000.
3. Organize a paint-out. Gather supplies and community volunteers to remove graffiti in your neighborhood. *Be sure to get permission from the property owners before making changes to their properties.*
4. Plan a paint-brush mural to cover a wall continuously plagued with graffiti. *Be sure to get permission from the property owners before making changes to their properties.*
5. Coordinate a graffiti awareness campaign at your school or in the community.
6. Make a presentation on graffiti prevention to your school, class, or neighborhood group.
7. Adopt a spot in your school or community and make sure it stays clean and free of graffiti.
8. Plant trees or other greenery near a graffiti-plagued wall. Plants with thorns or strong scents are a good deterrent and help prevent access.
9. Ask your community to install lighting in areas that are dark and often hit with graffiti.
10. Contact the Office of the Clean City (CleanCity@dc.gov) and volunteer to help keep your community clean.

Note: Facts and figures courtesy of the Graffiti Hurts website, www.GraffitiHurts.org.

Los garabatos en las paredes, el famoso graffiti, dan la impresión de que a nadie le importa, atrayendo otras formas de crimen y delincuencia a los vecindarios. El graffiti absorbe mucho del dinero que los residentes pagan en impuestos. El graffiti también afecta a los residentes haciéndoles sentir menos seguros. Los vecindarios con graffiti experimentan una baja en el valor de sus propiedades, pierden negocios y baja el turismo; reduce también el número de pasajeros del transporte público.

La manera más eficiente de prevenir el graffiti es removerlo lo antes posible. Aunque esto puede ser muy difícil, hay pruebas de estudios que demuestran que el remover el graffiti dentro de las primeras 24 a 48 horas resulta en que eso no vuelva a ocurrir. Los ciudadanos pueden reportar cualquier graffiti al (202) 727-1000. Los ciudadanos también pueden "adoptar" un pedazo de espacio y asegurarse que se mantenga libre de garabatos. Otra opción es obtener permiso del dueño de la pared y convertir el graffiti en un mural. Murales pintados a mano son raramente garabateados.

Comuníquese con la Oficina de Clean City (CleanCity@dc.gov) para apuntarse como voluntario para ayudar a mantener su comunidad limpia.