

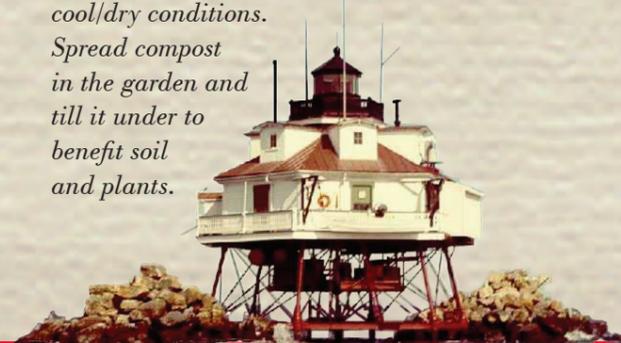
Additional Actions



Build a Compost Pile

Composting is a simple, cost-effective way to turn household scraps and landscaping debris into a beneficial resource. This reduces waste entering the landfills, diminishes the need for chemical fertilizers, and reduces the pollutant loads in residential run-off. Some key steps to get started are:

- ◆ Select a flat, well-drained spot that gets full sun. Try to build the pile in the middle of the garden.
- ◆ Construct a compost bin out of scrap lumber, bricks, concrete blocks, or wire. Make sure the bin has openings to let air penetrate the pile.
- ◆ Feed the pile, mixing coarse and fine materials in 6- to 8-inch layers. The bottom layer should contain twigs, chopped cornstalks, or other coarse material. Next, add a layer high in nitrogen such as grass clippings or manure. Top with soil and repeat the process. Sprinkle the pile with water.
- ◆ Mix the layers well and shape so the center is lower than the sides to help water flow into the pile. Turn the pile once a month and remoisten the material as you turn it.
- ◆ Plant material should decompose into compost within five months in warm weather, longer under cool/dry conditions. Spread compost in the garden and till it under to benefit soil and plants.



Follow Bay-Friendly Boating Practices

Many people cherish the recreational opportunities provided the waterways in the Basin. By obeying the law and taking common-sense measures into account during the use of the waters we can preserve or enhance the quality of life for generations to come. Therefore:

- ◆ Avoid discharging sewage directly into the water. Sewage contains disease-carrying organisms and nutrients that are harmful to humans, plants, and wildlife. Boaters should have some type of sanitation device on board, such as a portable toilet or holding tank, to treat the sewage. The waste should be disposed at dump stations or pumpout facilities. Dumping of sewage directly into the water is illegal. Take the time to find the proper disposal area near your boating area and, whenever possible, use onshore rest rooms.
- ◆ Don't litter. Dispose of trash in proper containers once onshore.
- ◆ Clean fish at designated areas and dispose waste in proper containers. Do not throw fish waste into surface waters at marinas; the waste can cause water-quality problems within the marinas.
- ◆ Dispose of or store liquid waste (e.g., oil, grease, detergents, paint) in the proper containers.
- ◆ Avoid over-fueling. One quart of engine oil spilled in 1 million quarts of seawater will kill half of the exposed crab larvae. Do not top off tanks. Purchase vents that act as fuel/air separators so that fuel does not enter the bilge. Use oil-absorbing pads in the bilge and dispose properly.
- ◆ Perform boat maintenance out of the water if possible. Use areas designated for dust and scraping control, where wash water is effectively treated. Treat paint dust and scrapings as hazardous waste and dispose properly. Recycle boat engine oil and other fluids.
- ◆ While keeping boat hulls clean is important for efficient operation, use detergents and antifouling treatments that do not contain phosphate and are biodegradable to minimize environmental impacts.

Antifouling paints work by releasing chemicals that are toxic to unwanted organisms that attach to boat surfaces. Unfortunately, high concentrations of chemicals such as copper and tin can be extremely harmful to other aquatic organisms in enclosed marine environments such as bays, harbors, and marinas.

- ◆ Obey speed limits and no-wake zones. Slow your boat before coming to speed-limit markers. Boat wakes contribute to shoreline erosion. Be careful in shallow areas; do not disturb the sediment or uproot vegetation with the boat propeller.

Recycle

Recycle Delaware is a voluntary recycling program. Most centers are located within a 5-mile radius of most households so residents can easily drop off recyclables. For the center nearest you, call the the Delaware Solid Waste Authority's Citizens Response Line, 1-800-404-7080.

Items accepted through Recycle Delaware:

- Paper** — newspapers, magazines, phone books, newspaper inserts and paperback books.
- Plastic** — narrow-neck plastic bottles only (milk jugs, soda bottles, laundry detergent, salad dressing, cooking oil, shampoo, cleaning bottles). Rinse lightly, remove lids, and crush. Labels and rings can stay on.
- Cans** — aluminum, steel, and empty aerosol cans (drink/food cans, pet food, hair/bug spray). Rinse lightly. Crush if possible. Labels can stay on. Remove plastic spray knob from aerosols.
- Glass** — food/beverage containers, jars. Rinse lightly. Remove lids. Label and ring can stay on.
- Cardboard** — (specified locations only, call 1-800-404-7080 for locations) corrugated cardboard only. Fold to fit in 60-inch by 5-inch opening.



Photo by DSWA

Motor Oil — (specified locations only, call 1-800-404-7080 for locations) used motor oil, hydraulic or diesel oil.

Oil Filters — (same locations as motor oil) used car and truck oil filters.

Batteries — small household batteries (A, C, D) and button type (watch, hearing aid, camera).

Buy Recycled Products

We can all be more environmentally conscious when making purchases. Consider buying recycled products. Ask local suppliers about the following:

Household Items — carpet and backing, kitchen containers, wall panels, roof materials, tissues, toilet paper, paper towels, gift wrap, trash bags, plastic lumber, floor tile, steel/aluminum containers, benches, picnic tables, flower pots, mailboxes.

Office Items — computer paper, stationery, envelopes, file folders, copier paper, notepads, printer and laser cartridges, rulers, wastepaper baskets, pens and pencils, binders.

Auto Parts — retreaded tires, oil filters, license plate frames, batteries, rubber accessories, rebuilt auto parts, oil.

Home*A*Syst Program

Home*A*Syst, a companion program of the Farm Assessment System, takes you step-by-step through a series of worksheets that help you understand potential hazards around your home. Topics include: drinking water; fuel storage; septic systems; fertilizers, herbicides/insecticides; hazardous waste; indoor air; and lead. Call University of Delaware Cooperative Extension for more information, (302) 856-7303.