Borough of Mountain Lakes

RECYCLING GUIDELINES & MORE FOR A GREENER ML

These guidelines cover the Borough's home-side recycling collection program, Recycling Center, and the disposal of regular trash, yard waste, bulk trash, and household hazardous waste, as well additional guidance on maintaining and enhancing our beautiful Mountain Lakes environment.

Why is Recycling Important? Recycling is the law in New Jersey and is good for the environment. Responsible recycling is an important part of the **REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE** approach to minimizing the amount of waste that ends up in landfills or incinerators, or as litter polluting our environment.

Please Follow These Guidelines Carefully!
Contaminated recycling can cause an entire load of recyclables to be rejected, at significant cost to taxpayers. The Borough website has more information to help you, including the **Recycle Coach App**, which you can download on your phone.

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SUSTAINABLE JERSEY MOUNTAIN LAKES • SILVER CERTIFIED • A Better Tomorrow, One Community at a Time

Did you know that Mountain Lakes was one of the first municipalities in New Jersey to achieve Silver Certification by Sustainable Jersey? The Borough is proud of this recognition for our efforts to be a more sustainable community by reducing waste, cutting greenhouse gas emissions, increasing resiliency, and caring for our environment.

We all play a part in keeping Mountain Lakes **GREEN!**

HomeSide Recycling & Trash Collection

Recyclables and regular trash should be put out for pickup by 7AM on your weekly collection day in the appropriate containers. Contaminated recycling can cause an entire load of recyclables to be rejected, at a significant cost to Borough taxpayers, so please follow these guidelines carefully. ***When in Doubt, Throw It Out!***

Do not put recyclables in plastic bags.

Plastics, Glass & Metals (Commingled)

Plastic, glass & metal recyclables can be mixed together and placed in a rigid reusable container such as a recycling bin or garbage can, no more than 50 pounds in weight or 30 gallons in size. Recyclables must be clean, empty & dry.

- ✓ **#1, #2, #5 Plastics:** Plastic bottles, jars, jugs & other rigid plastic containers. Flatten your plastic containers to save space. No lids!
- ✓ **Glass:** Clear, amber & green bottles and jars
- ✓ **Metals:** Metal cans, can lids, bottle caps, clean aluminum dishes & foil
- ✓ **Aseptics:** Milk cartons & juice boxes

- × **UNACCEPTABLE Items:** Plastic bags, plastic wrap, plastic lids, windowpanes, mirrors, ceramics, pyrex, drinking glasses, aerosol cans and VCR/VHS tapes.

Paper & Cardboard

All paper & small cardboard must be placed in a recycling bin or paper bag – or tied in small bundles. Corrugated cardboard must be FLATTENED.

- ✓ Corrugated Cardboard (flattened)
- ✓ Newspaper, magazines, and junk mail
- ✓ Envelopes with or without windows
- ✓ Clean paper bags
- ✓ Cracker, cereal & frozen food boxes
- ✓ Manila folders & spiral notebooks
- ✓ Sticky notes, postcards & greeting cards
- ✓ Non-metallic wrapping paper

- × **UNACCEPTABLE Items:** Shredded office paper, food contaminated paper, including **greasy pizza boxes**, Tetra Pak cartons, padded envelopes, waxed cardboard & paper, paper towel & napkins, tissue paper, metallic wrapping paper, blueprint paper, construction paper, self-adhesive labels.

Regular Trash

Regular trash must be disposed of in Borough-issued green trash bags. Two sizes of green bags are available for purchase at Borough Hall, Ace Hardware, and Kings Food Market.

The Borough Recycling Center

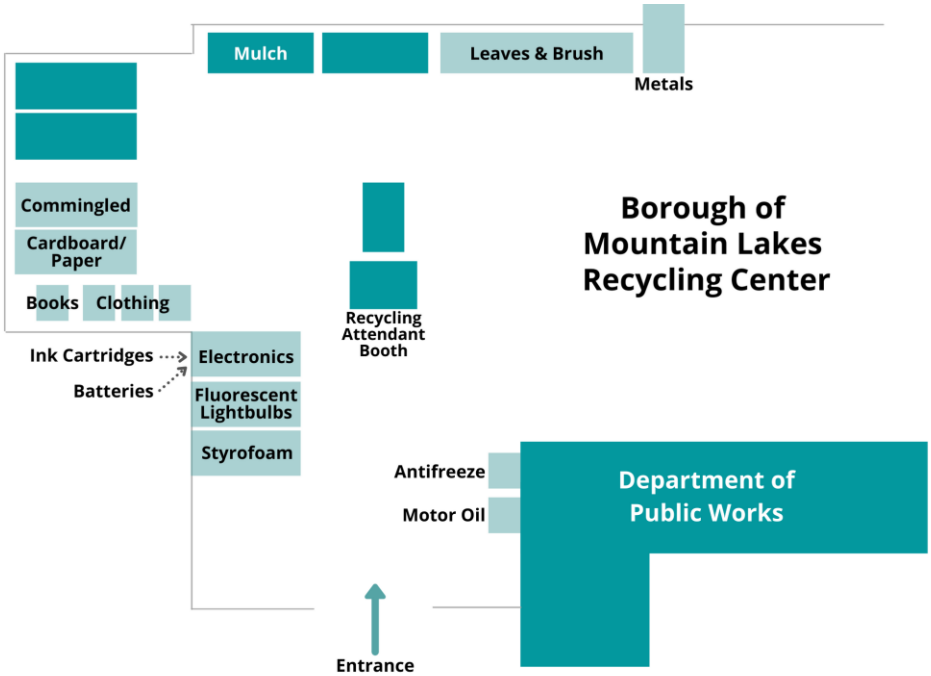
Department of Public Works **55 Pocono Road**

Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday **7:30am – 2:30pm**
Sunday (Apr 1 – Apr 30, Nov 1 – Dec 15) **7:30am – 2:30pm**

The Recycling Center is for recyclables only, not trash.

- Mountain Lakes residents have been issued vehicle hang tags to display when entering the Recycling Center. Contact Borough Hall if you are a new resident in need of a hang tag.
- Residents also may show their driver's license as proof of residency.
- Non-resident and commercial vehicle use of the Recycling Center is prohibited.

You can dispose of these items at the Recycling Center



- **Commingled:** #1, 2 & 5 plastics, glass bottles & jars, aluminum/ metal cans & foil, and aseptics (milk cartons & juice boxes). Recyclables must be CLEAN. No paper or plastic bags.
- **Mixed paper & FLATTENED Cardboard:** No plastic bags.
- **Antifreeze & Used Motor Oil**
- **Styrofoam:** CLEAN WHITE ONLY (no stickers or tape). Packing peanuts and food service items such as takeout containers, cups, meat trays & egg cartons are NOT accepted.
- **Fluorescent & CFL Lightbulbs**
- **Electronic Waste:** computers, TV's, printers, microwaves, zip drives, game consoles, remotes
- **Ink Cartridges & Batteries:** Deposit in the Electronic Waste bin. **Accepted Batteries:** Rechargeable - Nickel Cadmium (Ni-Cd), Nickel Zinc (Ni-Zn), Nickel Metal Hydride (Ni-MH), Small Sealed Lead Acid (SSLA/Pb), Lithium Ion (Li-Ion)
- **Books:** All books must have a barcode on the cover. Encyclopedias, magazines & water damaged books are NOT accepted.
- **Clothing:** Must be clean and contained in plastic bags.
- **Scrap Metal & Appliances:** Metal bookcases, file cabinets, garbage cans, grills, lawn mower (gas & oil removed), metal pipes, screens, metal toaster, etc.
- **Leaves & Mixed Brush:** Grass clippings are NOT accepted. See p.6 for info on GrassCycling.
- **Flags:** There is a VFW collection box for flags at Borough Hall.
- **Mulch:** Residents can pick-up mulch (when available) from the Recycling Center.

Yard Waste Disposal

- Mountain Lakes residents can dispose of leaves and brush at the Borough Recycling Center, with the addition of Sunday hours during spring & fall clean-up months.
- Grass clippings are not accepted at the Recycling Center. See page 6 for information about GrassCycling.
- Use of the facility by commercial landscapers is prohibited.

Dumping of leaves & yard waste on Borough-owned property, including woodlands & pocket parks, is prohibited! Residents are responsible for ensuring that their landscapers follow the NO DUMPING rules.

Bulk Trash Disposal

Bulk Trash Days: The Borough offers two Bulk Trash Days each year at the Recycling Center, one in the spring and one in the fall. Stay tuned for information about upcoming Trash Days, which are publicized on the Borough website and Borough Broadcast e-mails.

Morris County Transfer Station:
Mountain Lakes residents can use the Morris County Transfer Station in Parsippany to dispose of bulk trash for a small tipping fee:

Parsippany Transfer Station
1100 Edwards Road
Parsippany, NJ 07054
Hours: Mon-Fri 7:00am-3:00pm; Sat 7:30am-11:00am; closed Sundays

www.mcmua.com/sw_ts.asp

Other Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Options

- **The Borough Website** has additional info, including the Recycling Coach App. https://mtnlakes.org/departments/department-of-public-works/recycling-information/
- **Morris County MUA** is a good source of info: www.mcmua.com/sw_reduction.asp
- **Bubble Wrap & Packing Peanuts:** UPS
- **Metal Coat Hangers**: Return to Cleaners
- **Cork:** Whole Foods
- **Eyeglasses:** Lens Crafters, Pearle Vision
- **Plastic Bags:** Kings, Target, Walmart, Acme, Shop-Rite, Whole Foods
- **Big Brothers Big Sisters:** Donation center at 307 Rt 46 East in Denville. #877-336-8828
- **Goodwill:** Donation center at 266 Rt 46 East in Rockaway. www.goodwill.org/
- **LUPUS:** Lupus will pick up at your door. www.lupuspickup.org/
- **Facebook:** Items can be resold or donated on local group pages.

Household Hazardous Waste Disposal

The EPA considers some leftover household products that can catch fire, react, or explode under certain circumstances, or that are corrosive or toxic as household hazardous waste (HHW). Products, such as paints, cleaners, oils, batteries, and pesticides can contain hazardous ingredients and require special care.

To avoid the potential risks associated with HHW, it is important that people always monitor the use, storage, and disposal of products with potentially hazardous substances in their homes. Improper disposal of HHW can include pouring them down the drain, on the ground, into storm sewers, or in some cases putting them out with the regular trash.

Consider reducing your purchase of products that contain hazardous ingredients. Learn about the use of alternative methods or products, without hazardous ingredients, for some common household needs. When shopping for items such as multipurpose household cleaners, toilet cleaners, laundry detergent, dish soap, dishwashing machine pods and gels, bug sprays and insect pest control, consider shopping for environmentally friendly, natural products or search online for simple recipes you can use to create your own. Additional information is available from EPA's Safer Choice program. Source: www.epa.gov/hw/household-hazardous-waste-hhw

Latex "Water-Based" Paint

Must be dry and disposed of with your regular trash.

1) Make sure the paint can is ½ full or less. If the can is more than ½ full, pour excess into another container, like a coffee can or trash bag.
2) Add clay-based kitty litter or speedy dry & stir.
3) If liquid remains, add more kitty litter or speedy dry.
4) Allow mixture to dry until no longer pourable.
5) Dispose of can in the garbage.
6) **DON'T PUT THE LID BACK ON THE PAINT CAN!** Cans will not be picked up by your trash hauler if they can't see that the paint is dry.

Oil-Based Paint

Oil-based paint is a flammable material. It must be disposed of at a Morris County Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Day or at the permanent Household Hazardous Waste Facility in Mount Olive.

Borough Recycling Center

The Recycling Center has safe disposal receptacles for these hazardous materials:

- Anti-Freeze
- Car Batteries
- Batteries (see page 3 for list of accepted batteries)
- Consumer Electronics
- Fluorescent Light Bulbs
- Used Motor Oil

Morris County Household Hazardous Waste Disposal

Morris County has a permanent Household Hazardous Waste Facility in Mount Olive and hosts several hazardous waste disposal events each year. For more info: call 973-829-8006 or visit

The Better Bag Challenge

Plastic single-use bags are made from a non-renewable resource and may last for 1,000 years or more when landfilled. Reusable bags are stronger and can be washed. A New Jersey state law restricting the use of single-use plastic bags, polystyrene food containers, plastic straws and paper bags will take effect in May 2022.

Look for the Better Bag Challenge at various community events to receive your free bag. Keep reusable bags in your purse, car, or pocket. Remember to bring your reusable bags into the store and go back for them if you forget!

GrassCycling to Feed Your Lawn

GrassCycling is the practice of leaving grass clippings on your lawn when mowing. It is the natural way to recycle grass clippings, which also provides your lawn with valuable nutrients and water it needs.

Why GrassCycle?

SAVE MONEY: Save money on water, fertilizer, and disposal.

ENJOY A HEALTHIER LAWN: GrassCycling recycles valuable nutrients.

SAVE WATER: Grass clippings will help keep the moisture in the soil from evaporating.

REDUCE YOUR WORK: No raking, bagging & disposing of grass clippings - and studies show that homeowners reduce their total annual mowing by 20-25%.

REDUCE GREENHOUSE GASES: Burying grass clippings in a landfill contributes to the generation of methane, a gas more than 21 times more potent in its greenhouse heat trapping capabilities than carbon dioxide.

How to GrassCycle

1) Mow your lawn when it is dry.
2) Keep your mower blades sharp.
3) Follow the "⅓ Rule" – mow your lawn often enough so that no more than ⅓ of the length of the grass blade is cut at a time. Lawns are most healthy when mowed to a height of 2½ to 3".

You can GrassCycle with any type of mower. Remove the collection bag to allow clippings to drop on the lawn. If you use a landscaping service, tell them to leave the clippings on your lawn.

GrassCycling doesn't cause thatch

Shallow roots caused by pesticide treatments, over-watering and over-fertilizing are the primary causes of thatch, not grass clippings. Short clippings from regular mowing will decompose quickly and will not cover the grass or cause thatch.

Backyard Composting

Composting is nature's way of recycling organic materials back into the soil. The billions of living organisms in healthy soil transform dead plants into vital nutrients for new plant growth. One of the best ways you can build healthy soil in your garden and lawn is to use compost. With a small investment of time, you can improve the health and appearance of your yard, save money on fertilizers and mulch, preserve natural resources, and protect the health of your family and pets.

How to Make Compost

1) Add your **green** and **brown** materials (generally 1 part green to 3 parts brown), making sure larger pieces are chopped or shredded. The ideal compost pile contains browns and greens (of varying sizes) placed in alternating layers.
2) Every time you add to the pile, turn it over and "fluff" it with a pitchfork to provide aeration, unless your bin has a turner.
3) When material at the bottom is dark and rich in color, with no remnants of food or yard waste, your compost is ready to use. The resulting compost can be applied to lawns and gardens to help condition the soil and replenish nutrients.
4) **Do *not* add NON-biodegradable items (plastics, glass, and metals), toxins, pesticides, meat, dairy items, or pet waste.**

Greens (1 part)

- Fruits and vegetables
- Bread and grains
- Coffee grounds and filters
- Grass clippings
- Paper tea bags with staple removed

Browns (3 parts)

- Cotton or wool rags
- Dryer lint
- Eggshells
- Nut shells
- Fireplace ashes
- Sawdust
- Houseplants
- Hay and straw
- Wood chips
- Leaves, branches, twigs
- Used potting soil
- Shredded newspaper
- Cardboard rolls
- Clean paper
- Hair and fur
- Chicken, rabbit, cow, horse manure

Troubleshooting Your Pile

Problem:	Cause	Solution:
Rotten egg smell	*Insufficient air or too much moisture*	Turn pile and incorporate coarse browns (sawdust, leaves)
Ammonia smell	*Too much nitrogen*	Incorporate coarse browns (sawdust, leaves)
Pile does not heat up or decomposes slowly	*Pile too small*	Add more organic matter
	Insufficient moisture	Turn pile and add water
	Lack of nitrogen	Incorporate food waste, grass clippings, or manure
	Not enough air	Turn pile

United States Environmental Protection Agency

Solutions to Stormwater Pollution

Stormwater pollution is one of the greatest threats to our supply of clean and plentiful water. Pollution on streets, parking lots and lawns is washed by rain into storm drains, then directly into our drinking water supply, the ocean, and the lakes our children play in. Fertilizer, oil, pesticides, detergents, pet waste, grass clippings: You name it, and it ends up in our water.

By sharing the responsibility and making small, easy changes in our daily lives, we can keep common pollutants out of stormwater. It all adds up to cleaner water, and it saves the high cost of cleaning up dirty water supplies. As part of New Jersey's initiative to keep our water clean and plentiful, and to meet federal requirements, municipalities and other public agencies must adopt ordinances prohibiting various activities that contribute to stormwater pollution. Mountain Lakes is part of this initiative (Ordinance No. 202). Breaking these rules can result in fines or other penalties.

Here's what YOU can do to help protect our water!

Limit Use of Fertilizers & Pesticides

Fertilizers and pesticides are a source of stormwater pollution and should be used sparingly.

- Do a soil test to see if you need a fertilizer.
- Do not apply fertilizers if heavy rain is predicted.
- Look into alternatives for pesticides.

- Maintain a small lawn and keep the rest of your property or yard in a natural state with trees and other native vegetation that requires little or no fertilizer.
- If you use fertilizers and pesticides, follow the instructions on the correct application.
- Make sure you safely store or discard any unused portions.

Take Care with Hazardous Products

Hazardous products include some types of household and commercial cleaning products, lawn and garden care products, motor oil, antifreeze, and paints.

- Do not pour any hazardous products down a storm drain they are connected to local waterbodies.

- If you have hazardous products in your home or workplace, make sure you store or dispose of them properly. Read the label for guidance.
- Use natural or less toxic alternatives when possible.
- Recycle used motor oil.

Clean Up Pet Waste

Did you know that animal waste from pets can pollute our waters? When left on the ground, pet waste is washed by rain and melting snow and ice into storm drains that carry it to our rivers, lakes, the ocean and drinking water.

Animal waste contains a high concentration of nutrients as well as bacteria and disease-causing microorganisms that can cause problems.

- Mountain Lakes has pet-waste rules that are enforced.
- An example is requiring pet owners or their keepers to pick up and properly dispose of pet waste dropped on public or other people's property.
- Remember to use newspaper, bags, or pooper-scoopers to pick up wastes.
- Dispose of the wrapped pet waste in the trash or unwrapped in a toilet.
- Never discard pet waste in storm drains.

Don't Litter

- Place litter in trash receptacles.
- Recycle. Recycle. Recycle!
- Participate in community cleanups on EcoWeekend, usually the 3rd weekend of April.

Keep Pollution Out of Storm Drains

- Mountain Lakes has marked storm drain inlets with messages reminding people that storm drains are connected to local waterbodies.
- Do not let sewage or any other wastes flow into a stormwater system.

Dispose of Yard Waste Properly

- Keep leaves and grass out of storm drains.
- Use leaves and grass clippings as a resource for compost.
- Use a mulching mower that recycles grass clippings into the lawn. See page 6 for info on GrassCycling.

Don't Feed Wildlife

- Do not feed wildlife such as ducks and geese. Mountain Lakes has an ordinance that prohibits wildlife feeding in public areas.

Additional Information

www.njstormwater.org or www.nonpointsource.org

www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater or www.epa.gov/nps

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Water Quality
Bureau of Nonpoint Pollution Control
Municipal Stormwater Regulation Program
(609) 633-7021

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
www.CleanWaterNJ.org

Water Conservation

Mountain Lakes draws drinking water from a sole source aquifer. This means it is the only source of potable water for us and is irreplaceable. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection advises conservation.

Indoors

- Use ENERGY STAR water efficient appliances and plumbing fixtures. Big water users are toilets, washing machines, showers, faucets, and dishwashers.
- Check for water leaks.
- Keep cold water in the fridge so you don't have to run the faucet.
- Turn off the faucet when brushing teeth or shaving.
- Limit shower time.

Money Isn't All You're Saving

Outdoors

Choose drought tolerant native grasses, shrubs, and trees.

Avoid Pesticides
Healthy soil retains moisture better and reduces watering needs. Microbes are essential ingredients of healthy soil.

Fertilize with Mulch and Compost
These natural fertilizers retain moisture, retard weed growth, feed plants a complete diet, and improve the soil. Mulch is available for free seasonally at the Recycling Center. The ML Environmental Commission sells home composters during EcoWeekend at a discounted price.

Obey Water Conservation Ordinance (237-10) – This ordinance limits the days that residents can use sprinkler systems to water their lawns and landscaping from June - September. Residents with even-numbered homes can water on even-numbered days, and residents with odd-numbered homes can water on odd-numbered days from 12:01 am – 10:00 am and from 6:00 pm - 12:00 midnight.

Automatic Watering Systems

- Use drip irrigation and micro sprays over sprinklers.
- Adjust your watering schedule to weather conditions.
- Install a soil moisture sensor so you don't use water when the soil is saturated.

Use Rainwater Collection (Rain Barrels)
The ML Environmental Commission sells rain barrels annually during EcoWeekend at a discounted price. You can fit your gutters with a rain barrel system that meets your needs. 500 gallons of water can be collected in a ½ inch rain with water coming off a 1500 sq. ft. roof. Using rainwater to water your landscaping helps replenish our groundwater (aquifers).

Environmental Commission of Mountain Lakes

Invasive Species in Mountain Lakes

Invasive species are plants and animals that are brought in from ecosystems in other parts of the world that then can propagate prolifically to the detriment of native species. The result is the alteration of regional distinction and the health of native flora and fauna. The Borough has to spend taxpayer dollars and many volunteer hours in removing these species from our environment.

Proper eradication methods are encouraged on public and private land to avoid personal and environmental harm. This includes working with a restoration plan, avoiding chemicals and herbicides, wearing the proper clothing, and understanding proper methods for plant identification, removal, disposal and replanting.

Residents and landscapers are strongly encouraged to avoid planting any invasive species in Mountain Lakes. Instead, the Borough encourages the planting of native species. In addition, local nurseries are strongly encouraged to phase out the sale of these plants. Here are some of the many invasive species that are causing damage locally:

Plants

Garlic Mustard
Porcelain-berry
Mugwort
Japanese Barberry
Oriental Bittersweet
Canada Thistle
Autumn Olive
Winged Burning Bush
Winter Creeper
Japanese Knotweed
Lesser Celandine
Glossy Buckthorn
English Ivy
Privet
Japanese Honeysuckle
Exotic Bush Honeysuckles (Amur, Morrow's & Tatarian)
Multiflora Rose
Wineberry, Wine Raspberry
Wisteria

Aquatic plants

Creeping Water Primrose
Purple Loosestrife
Eurasian Water Milfoil
Brittle Naiad
Common Reed
Curly-Leaf Pondweed
Fanwort

Trees

Norway Maple
Tree-of-Heaven
Callery Pear
Black Locust

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers are vital to the Borough's efforts to keep Mountain Lakes GREEN! The Borough has an active Environmental Commission, Shade Tree Commission, Lakes Management Advisory Committee, Woodlands Advisory Committee, Historic Preservation Committee, and Green Team. Our committees play an important leadership role in caring for our beautiful Mountain Lakes environment.

Volunteer openings on all Borough committees and commissions are publicized in our weekly Broadcast e-mails, along with other volunteer and educational opportunities – including trail restoration projects, community clean-up drives, the planting of saplings in our woodlands, rain barrel workshops, green movie nights & more! For additional information, visit the "Committees" tab on the Borough website: www.mtnlakes.org.

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Mountain Lakes Borough Hall, 400 Boulevard, Mountain Lakes, NJ 07046

BOROUGH OF MOUNTAIN LAKES
LISTED IN NATIONAL AND STATE REGISTERS OF HISTORIC PLACES