

## City of Portage Grass Clipping Policy



10 pounds of fresh grass clippings contains one gallon of water. This is the main reason why the city discourages grass clippings going to the landfill. Throwing away water is a waste of our tax dollars.

Proper mowing is the key to grasscycling: cut your grass 1/3 of the length of the grass blade at one time. Your grass should be dry and your mower blades sharp. In the fast growing season, you may have to cut every four to seven days. When properly clipped, grass decomposes quickly and releases

nutrients back into the soil. Grasscycling also greatly reduces the need for fertilizer because grass clippings return nitrogen to the soil. Longer grass blades create more shade, provide the soil protection from the sun and even help squeeze out weeds. Golf courses and school districts are great examples of proper grasscycling techniques. This practice will actually give you a healthier looking lawn if it is mowed, watered, and fertilized properly. Almost any mower will work by raising the cutting height. If your mower has a collection bag, remove it to allow clippings to drop into the soil. However,

**Department  
PUBLIC Hours  
Monday—Friday  
7am to 3pm**

**April 30th—  
October 31st  
Saturday Hours  
10am to 2pm**

**NO Sunday or Holiday Drop-Off**

if your mower does not have a safety flap covering the opening where the bag fits into the chute, or a plug for the chute, contact your local retailer to purchase a retrofit kit. Backyard composting is a great way to keep your other yard waste, such as plant clippings, leaves, etc., out of landfills.

Please do not exhaust / throw from the mower deck grass clippings into the street/road area. This causes a road hazard to vehicles and also may cause flooding with clogged storm inlets.

If you don't have room on your property to compost your own yard waste, drop your yard waste off for free at The City Portage Site Drop-Off 2303 Hamstrom Road... email us at [PSD@portage-in.com](mailto:PSD@portage-in.com) or call 762-4564 for more information. A YARD PASS is required.

## **“City of Portage” Bulk Item Policy**

“BULK ITEM” definition: Any item or object located outside of your “City of Portage” black lid toter set at the curb, easement or end of property for disposal.

Each Residential dwelling unit that pays a monthly garbage collection fee is entitled to place bulk items outside of their “City of Portage” toter on their first trash day (Amnesty Day) of the month for collection. All bulk items must be reported by leaving your name, address and phone number with the Sanitation Department 24 hours before for your collection by calling 762-4564 or email [PSD@portage-in.com](mailto:PSD@portage-in.com) . Placing bulk items at the curb gives permission to the city for disposal.

If you are exceeding your green lid toter in recycling material, you may request an additional recycling toter at no extra cost. If you want extra black lid City of Portage toters for your residence, please contact our Department office. The cost per black lid toter is half the amount of the regular trash fee per month and a minimum of a one year obligation. Property owners with delinquent balances greater than \$100.00 on Portage utility bills will be denied extra toters until balance is paid in full.

Amnesty Day or free bulk item pickups are not to exceed the 40 square foot curb rule. All bulk items placed within an area of 4 feet wide X 10 feet long X 5 feet maximum height. This includes items such as, but is not limited to ...

- ALL personal trash cans,
- Up to four (4) car tires.
- kitchen appliances, tables, chairs;
- water heaters, washers and dryers;
- furniture, mattress sets or dressers;
- E-waste (TV, computers, monitors, printers, electronics)
- Carpet/padding rolled and taped into bundles no longer than five foot lengths,
- deck wood material cut into bundles no longer than five foot lengths,
- wood fencing cut into bundles no longer than five foot lengths,
- wood sheds cut into bundles no longer than five foot lengths

- waste/debris from small non-permit household remodeling projects will need to be placed in large heavy duty construction type trash bags not to exceed 50lbs each.

Special Notes: Grass clippings, common earth dirt, sod, sand, stone, landscape blocks, river rock, cinder blocks, bricks, asphalt, concrete, or roofing shingles are NOT allowed in totes and are NOT allowed as bulk items. These items cannot be disposed of through city services.

- Required city permitted remodeling / construction projects require on-site dumpsters. Such debris material cannot be disposed of through city services.
- Bulk items placed out for collection at the curb on the non-Amnesty Day of the month totaling 40 square feet or less have a minimum service fee of \$25.00 charged to the owner.
- Bulk items placed at the curb at any time during the calendar month exceeding the 40 square foot rule have a minimum service fee of \$100.00 or more charged to the owner.

Established Policy: 2013/March & Last Updated: 2017/June