

# Reduce, Reuse, Recycle



## Where Can I Buy Recycled Mulch And Soil Products In Hillsborough County?

Products are available for sale to residential and commercial buyers at each of the County sites listed below. If you have questions about the recycling process or need more information about availability and pricing of recycled material, please call or visit the sites, or contact the County's Yard Waste Contractor, Consolidated Resource Recovery, Inc. at 813-662-0977 or 1-888-756-0977.

The Yard and Wood Waste Processing sites are open Monday through Friday, from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

### Falkenburg Facility

350 N. Falkenburg Road, Tampa, 33619  
813-744-5599 (at the Resource Recovery Facility,  
just south of the Animal Services shelter)

### Northwest County Facility

8001 W. Linebaugh Ave., Tampa, 33615  
813-264-3816 (at the Northwest Transfer Facility,  
just west of the Veteran's Expressway)

### South County Facility

13000 U.S. Highway 41, Gibsonton 33534  
813-671-7611 (at the South County Transfer Facility,  
just north of Big Bend Road)

**Types of Recycled Material:** Aged Fines, Log/Pallet Wood Mulch, Yard Waste Mulch

Availability depends on season and other factors. We suggest calling before you go.

For information on yard waste sites, call 813-662-0977.

For more information regarding products, general questions, or service concerns, call the County's Yard Waste Contractor, Consolidated Resource Recovery. 1-888-756-0977

For more information about mulch, compost or other Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ practices, contact Hillsborough Extension or visit

[www.hillsborough.extension.ufl.edu](http://www.hillsborough.extension.ufl.edu)



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### Public Utilities Department Solid Waste Management

925 E. Twiggs Street, Tampa, FL 33602  
813-272-5977



Florida-Friendly  
Landscaping™ PROGRAM



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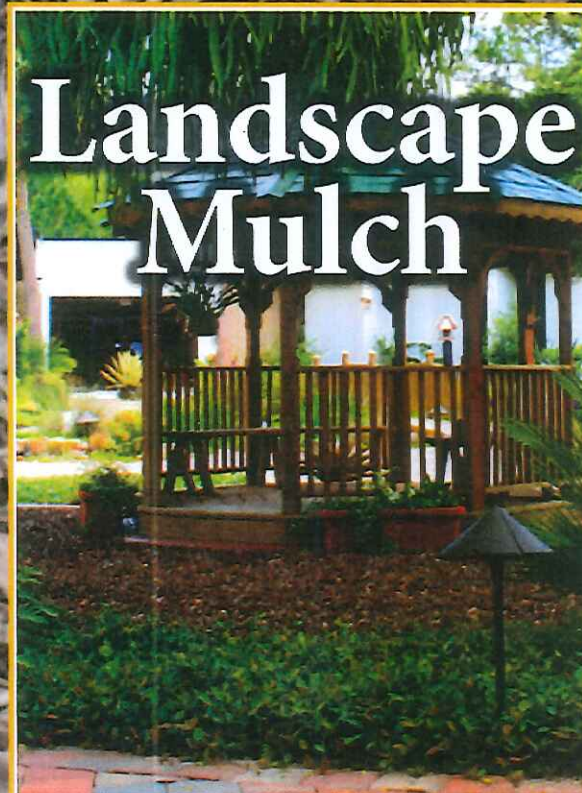
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This brochure was revised by Lynn Barber, Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Agent and Monica Raguckas, Compost Program Coordinator and previously re-created by Lynn Barber and Marina D'Abreu, Horticulture Agent.



EXTENSION

# Landscape Mulch



Hillsborough County Extension

813-744-5519

[www.hillsborough.extension.ufl.edu](http://www.hillsborough.extension.ufl.edu)



## Benefits Of Mulch

- Retains soil moisture
- Moderates soil temperature
- Reduces runoff and erosion
- Improves soil structure
- Suppresses weeds
- Enhances the beauty of the landscape
- Provides increased area for root growth
- Protects plants from lawnmowers and weed eaters

## Mulching Techniques

- Mulch entire landscape beds
- Wood and bark mulches should be 3 inches deep after settling
- Mulch newly-set plants after they are planted and watered
- Re-apply mulch around established plants as needed to maintain 3 inch depth
- When mulching a tree, create a 2 foot-diameter circle of mulch for every inch of trunk diameter
- Pull mulch 2 inches away from plants' trunks/ stems to prevent rotting
- Pull mulch 1 foot from exterior walls to discourage termites

## What About Termites?

University of Florida research indicates that termites may be present in mulched areas more frequently than in areas where mulch is non-existent. However, there are certain practices to help deter termites.

- Leave space between plants and exterior walls
- Pull mulch 1 foot away from walls
- Apply mulch 1 inch thick near buildings to reduce moisture near foundations
- Apply no more than 1 inch of water when you irrigate



## Kinds Of Mulch

### ORGANIC

#### Melaleuca (Punk Tree)

- Produced from an invasive, non-native
- Almost no settling over time
- High termite resistance

#### Pine Bark

- Timber industry by-product
- Good color retention
- Large pieces tend to float away

#### Eucalyptus

- Produced from Florida plantations
- Light, reddish-brown color
- Minimal settling over time

#### Oak Leaves

- Free source of mulch
- Create "self-mulching" areas under trees
- Minimal settling over time

#### Pine Straw

- Timber industry by-product
- Settles quickly

### INORGANIC

#### Crushed Shell/Gravel/Rock

- Provides nice texture and color in landscaped beds
- Does not prevent weeds
- Reflects heat, preventing soil moisture loss

#### Recycled Tires

- Lasts a long time
- Can be very costly
- High zinc levels in leachate may harm plants (based on USDA research)

## Mulch Coverage Guide

Depth of Mulch	Coverage per cubic yard	30 lbs. of mulch will cover	25 lbs. of mulch will cover
2 inches (4/25 ft.)	162 square feet	9 square feet	7.5 square feet
2.5 inches (1/5 ft.)	129 square feet	7.2 square feet	6 square feet
3 inches (1/4 ft.)	108 square feet	6 square feet	5 square feet
4 inches (1/3 ft.)	81 square feet	4.5 square feet	3.75 square feet

### Directions:

- 1) Determine the square foot measurement of the area to be mulched. **Example: 4 feet x 25 feet = 100 sq. ft.**
- 2) Determine desired depth of mulch, then convert from inches to a fraction of a foot. **Example: 3 inches deep = 1/4 foot**
- 3) Multiply fraction from Step 2 by the square foot measurement of area to be covered. **Example: 1/4 foot x 100 square feet = 25 cubic feet**
- 4) One cubic yard equals 27 cubic feet (3 ft. x 3 ft. x 3 ft.). Bagged mulch is available in volumes such as 2 cubic feet. Using the example, you can determine how many bags to buy. **Example: 25 cubic feet to mulch; 2 cubic feet of mulch in 1 bag = 12.5 bags. You would buy 13 bags of mulch.**