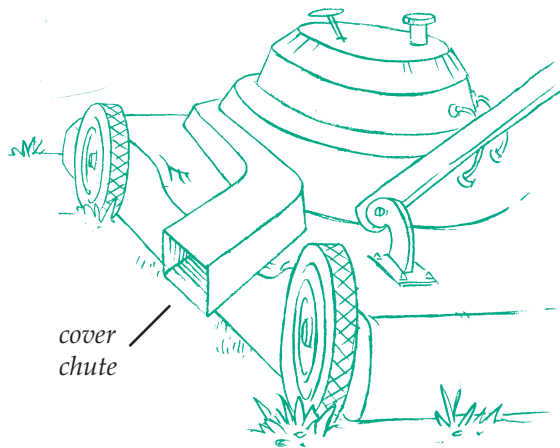


## What's the Catch?

There is no catch. You don't need to buy a new “mulch” or “recycling” lawn mower to grasscycle. Rotary mowers can be used for grasscycling by removing the bag and mowing in a pattern that distributes the clippings evenly. Most rear discharge rotary mowers have a flap that covers the chute when the bag is removed, to protect you from flying debris. Reel-type mowers, including push-powered mowers, can be used to mulch-mow by simply removing the catcher.



## Questions?

For more information about grasscycling or other yard waste prevention ideas, call us at 425-388-3425. (Hearing/speech impaired call WA Relay Center at 1-800-833-6388.)

This material can be made available upon request to accommodate people with disabilities. Contact us for more information or translation services.



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# Grasscycling

## Reduces waste, saves time and improves lawns



**Raking** grass clippings and removing them from your lawn is a hassle. There is an easier way to handle grass clippings. Grasscycling means leaving grass clippings on the lawn.

Studies at Washington State University show that grasscycling makes lawns greener and healthier. Grass clippings are mostly water and contain lots of nitrogen, so they decompose quickly to return nutrients to your lawn.

*Grasscycling means less time mowing, less waste, less fertilizing and more time to enjoy your yard. And it really works! What more could you ask for?*

This brochure explains how to make grasscycling work for you. If landscapers mow your lawn, ask them to call 425-388-3425 for more information on grasscycling.

  
**Snohomish County**  
Public Works  
Solid Waste Management

## Tips for Grasscycling:

The key to grasscycling is to cut grass clippings into small pieces and scatter them so they will decompose quickly and not form clumps. Follow these tips for best results:



Remove no more than one inch of grass each time you mow. Cutting about one-third of the blade each time is best for the plants.

Mow every five to seven days during the spring and summer months. Since grasscycling only takes about half the time of raking clippings, you will still save time even though you mow more frequently.



Mow when grass is dry. Dry grass scatters more easily than wet grass.

If the lawn is too long or wet, remove the clippings to use as mulch, to spread and dig into garden soil, or to compost. Or mow twice to get rid of clumps. Set the mower height up for the first cut, so that no more than one inch of grass is removed. Lower it to remove another inch on the second mowing. Cut grass at 2 to 2 1/2 inches high so clippings filter down and are not visible.

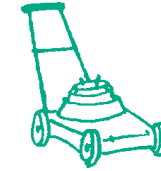


Keep mower blades sharp. Sharp blades cut the clippings smaller. They also make a cleaner cut, which is better for the grass.

Irrigate correctly for moderate growth. Only one inch of water is needed each week (including rainfall) for healthy growth in summer. One-half inch per week is enough in fall and spring. More water is not better for your lawn. It just makes more grass for you to cut.



Apply slow-release fertilizers in autumn and spring for steady growth through the year. Do not fertilize during summer. It encourages excess growth and results in more work for you. Look for fertilizers labeled “slow release,” “controlled release,” “organic” or “water insoluble.”



Consider a grasscycling (“mulch”) mower when it's time to purchase a new one. Mulch mowers for home use range in cost from \$200 to \$900.

More expensive models may last longer, but machines in the low to mid price range work fine. Push mowers and rechargeable electric mulching mowers do a good job of grasscycling, without the noise, pollution, and exhaust smells that gasoline-powered mowers produce. To learn more about mulch mowers, check *Consumer Reports* at your local library or call 425-388-3425.

*Grass clippings are 90% water, so they decompose quickly, adding nutrients to your lawn.*

*Grasscycling does not cause thatch buildup. Thatch is an accumulation of dead roots and stems.*

