

Tips to Clean, Green & Beautify Tullahoma

1. Place trash in plastic bags and tie up before placing in garbage cans and dumpsters to avoid airborne trash as it is emptied into garbage trucks.
2. A pop of color can distract the eye from otherwise unsightly permanent fixtures (like AC units, ground level utility boxes, garbage cans and dumpsters). Knockout roses are a real eye-catcher (corner by Burger King and in front of caboose). Wave petunias are a great summer annual. Coleus provide summer color in the shade.
3. If your business gets a lot of cardboard boxes, call Public Works to request a dog pen to recycle them. Just flatten the boxes and drop in the pen. The cardboard truck will come by regularly to empty it. This is a free service and reduces your garbage. If you have Dumpster pickup, you might be able to reduce the number of garbage collections which would reduce your garbage bill.
4. Ever notice how nice an edged curb and sidewalk looks? It is a simple thing that makes a big impression. And an edged sidewalk is less of a tripping hazard.
5. Are you familiar with Trex and other composite materials, like those used at Imagination Station? Trex is made of recycled plastic grocery bags (3.1 billion bags in 2010) and reclaimed wood from sawdust, used pallets, and woodworking operations. Trex keeps 400 million pounds of plastic and wood out of landfills every year. Your recycled grocery bag could become part of your next deck.
6. The City of Tullahoma's recycling program is so efficient, it now handles cardboard, newspaper, and plastics from both Manchester and Coffee County too. Way to go!
7. Ever wonder how they bail plastic bottles for recycling? If you've ever tried to keep a bag full of plastic bottles together, you know it is like herding cats. But when you put all of those bottles under a lot of pressure in a bailing machine, they lock together into a giant cube. Amazing.
8. How many aluminum cans in a pound? Well, that depends on the cans. If you average out small juice cans, 12-oz. soda cans, and large beer cans, you get about 33-34 cans per pound. If you flatten the cans, a 15-gallon bag equals about 10 pounds.
9. Ever heard of "sewer safer" trees? Those are trees that can safely be planted above or near sewer lines. Tree roots will often invade sewer lines, drain fields and connections, causing damage to both the area and to homes where the sewer backs up. If you are planting a tree near a sewer line, read this publication from the UT Agricultural Extension Service:
<https://utextension.tennessee.edu/publications/Documents/SP628.pdf>
10. If you are thinking about planting trees on your property, take a look at the online publications from the UT Agricultural Extension Service. They include information on

native trees, small flowering trees, small trees for fall color, shade and flood-tolerant trees, trees for poorly drained soils, trees under power lines, trees for wildlife, and many more topics on selection and care. Go to:

<https://utextension.tennessee.edu/publications/Pages/tnTrees.aspx>

11. That nice fresh mulch we buy locally by the truckload comes from all those branches and leaves we put out on the curb. The city collects the brush and leaves, then it goes to a local commercial mulching operation where it is chipped and mixed. When it is nice and decomposed, you can buy it to go on your flower beds. That's "locally-grown" and recycling at its finest.

12. Did you know you can recycle medicine every day in Tullahoma? Just take it to the police station and drop it in the box on the wall just inside the front door. You don't have to speak with anyone. The containers will be destroyed, and the medicines will be treated as hazardous waste. You can safely dispose of outdated and unneeded prescription, over-the-counter, and pet medications. That keeps them out of the landfill, out of the sewer system where they can get into the ground water, and out of the hands of people who might use them illegally.