Why Apply Mulch?

- Suppress weeds
- Reduce watering
- Protect soil
- Reduce compaction

Simple Steps

1. Remove weeds
2. Cover bare soil
   - Apply correct thickness
   - Keep at least 1 inch from plant stems and bark
3. Re-apply when bare soil peeks through

Materials to Avoid

Avoid materials that shed water and prevent nutrients from reaching roots:
- Plastic
- Landscape Fabric
- Fine or Medium Bark

For Landscape Beds Choose:

- Wood Chip Mulch: 3 to 4 inches thick
- Leaf Mulch: 2 to 3 inches thick

For Vegetables and Flowers Choose:

- Compost Mulch: Up to 1 inch thick
- Straw Mulch: 1 to 2 inches thick

What Quantity Do You Need?

1. Visit www.savingwater.org and search ‘Compost and Mulch Calculator’
2. Enter thickness and size of area
3. Select ‘calculate’ and “Voila!”

See page 5 in the “Growing Healthy Soil” publication for more information.