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

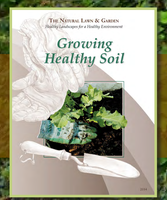
For Vegetables and Flowers Choose:

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.

Snohomish County
Washington State University Extension
Snohomish County