

# Recycling



## What is recycling?

Recycling is the process of taking a product at the end of its useful life and using all or part of it to make another product. Materials such as paper, aluminum, glass and plastic are commonly recycled in order to conserve our natural resources and create a cleaner and healthier environment for the earth and all its inhabitants.

## What are the benefits of recycling?

Recycling keeps valuable materials such as aluminum and paper out of landfills, so they can be reused in other forms and not wasted. It also prevents hazardous materials and chemicals from ending up in landfills, which can contaminate soil and leach into our drinking water. There are numerous items that can be recycled such as milk cartons, paper bags, newspapers, glass bottles, plastic containers, aluminum cans, plastic bags, paper, and many other items.





## *Continued*

### **Recycling in your community:**

By recycling in your local community, you are helping to reduce the amount of pollution, contamination and unnecessary waste throughout your state and even the country. By doing a little can, you can change a lot. If your local community does not offer recycling opportunities, you can contact and work with your local elected officials to provide education and develop programs in your area.

### **What are the Three R's?**

The three r's are **Reduce**, **Reuse**, and **Recycle**. To help protect and enhance our environment we must implement the three r's into our everyday life.

**Reduce** the amount of waste you produce by not purchasing items that you do not need or items that come in packages or containers that cannot be recycled. Many businesses have reduced the amount of paper they use by offering electronic copies. For example, instead of paper coupons, you may receive an email with a coupon code for items. You can view newspaper articles on the internet instead of receiving the paper version. Banks and credit card companies also offer customers the option to view their

statements on the internet instead of receiving a paper copy each month. Other ways of reducing pollution to help the environment include, carpooling, taking the bus, walking or even riding a bicycle.

**Reuse** items as much as possible instead of throwing them out. When buying groceries, use a cloth bag instead of a paper or plastic one. Many stores offer reusable cloth bags that customers can purchase for a very low price. Many items come in containers that can be reused to store small items such as legos, crayons, screws and nails, craft materials, etc. You can reuse paper sacks to create book covers. Use dishes and silverware for meals instead of buying paper plates and plastic utensils. There are many creative and innovative ways you can reuse items to eliminate waste.

**Recycle** as much as possible to eliminate waste. Many of the items we use everyday are made of material that can be recycled. You can also help the environment by purchasing items that are made from recycled materials. Items that are made from recycled material will usually list it on the product's label.

### DID YOU KNOW?

- An estimated 80,000,000 Hershey's Kisses are wrapped each day, using enough aluminum foil to cover over 50 acres of space. That's almost 40 football fields. All that foil is recyclable, but not many people realize it.
- A single quart of motor oil, if disposed of improperly, can contaminate up to 2,000,000 gallons of fresh water.
- On average, each one of us produces 4.4 pounds of solid waste each day. This adds up to almost a ton of trash per person, per year.
- Americans throw away enough aluminum every month to rebuild our entire commercial air fleet.
- States with bottle deposit laws have 35-40% less litter by volume.
- Every year we make enough plastic film to shrink-wrap Texas.
- Americans use 2.5 million plastic bottles every hour.
- Plastic bags and other plastic garbage thrown into the ocean kill as many as 1,000,000 sea creatures a year
- For every ton of paper recycled, we save 4,100 kilowatts of electricity for three hours.
- Paper fiber can be recycled up to 7 times
- Every month Americans throw out enough glass bottles and jars to fill up a giant skyscraper
- If all of our newspapers were recycled, we could save about 250 million trees each year! If every American recycled just one-tenth of their newspapers, we could save about 25 million trees each year
- Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a TV for three hours

Sources:

<http://earth911.com/recycling/>

<http://www.dosomething.org/tipsandtools/11-facts-about-recycling>

**“Recycling reduces our need to dump our garbage in someone else's backyard”**

-David Morris of the Institute for Local Self-Reliance,  
[Recycling and the New York Times](#) 30 Jul 96



## WELCOME MONSOON

### What is a Monsoon

A Monsoon or “Mausim” is an Arabic word that means season. The word first began to be used by sailors in the Indian Ocean and Arabian seas. The sailors used the word to describe winds that shifted direction by the season. The wind shifts directions because as the continent warms it creates a large low front over the land. The natural tendency of air is to move from high to low fronts. As the air begins to move towards the land, it shifts direction and brings the clouds, moisture, and humidity along with it. This affect occurs very heavily over India and sometimes drops as much as 27 inches of rain within a 24 hour period. The monsoon in Arizona is the result of the same Phenomenon, however because Arizona is not as close to the Ocean it is much more mild. This is why the dry landscape of Arizona can turn into a lake literally overnight.

~ The drop of rain maketh a hole in the stone, not by violence, but by oft falling. ~  
Hugh Latimer

### When Does it Occur

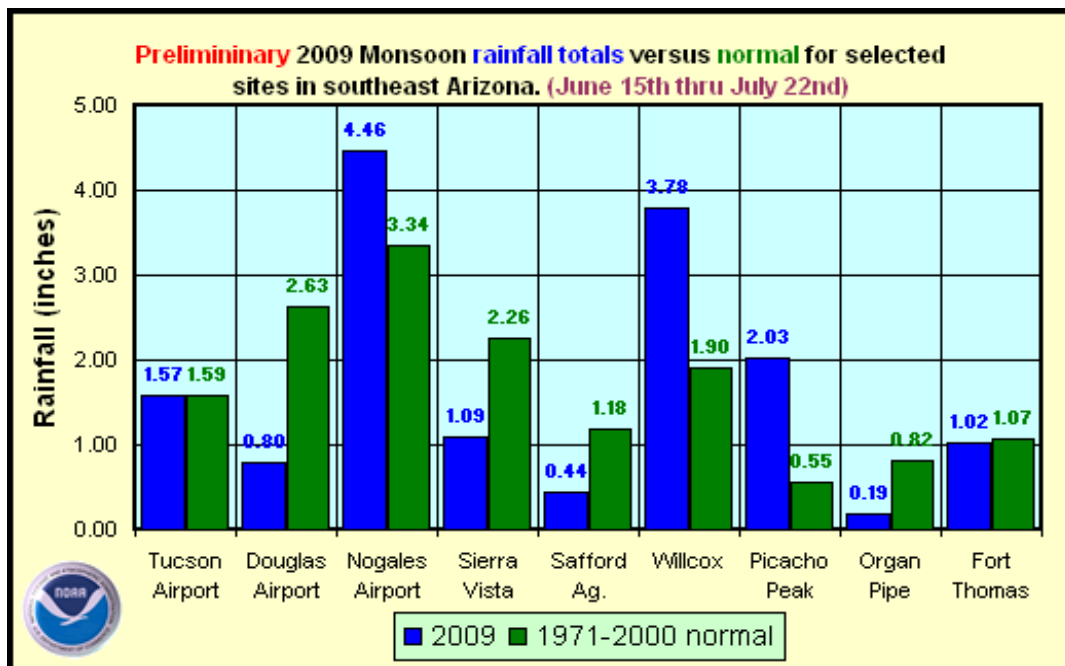
Prior to 2008, Monsoon began when the daily dew point was 55 or higher for three consecutive days. On average this occurred during the first two weeks of July. However, the National Weather Service designated June 15 to be the first day of monsoon and September 30 to be the last day.



What most people don't realize is that this wet season of the monsoon is the result of the heating of the atmosphere which occurs in April, May, and June. During these months the extreme desert heat, which is known to exceed 110 degrees, is constantly at work heating the

Southwestern area of the continent. In fact the Arizona Monsoon is just a section of the much larger Mexican Monsoon. This monsoon affects the entire country of Mexico and has also sent moisture as far North as Wyoming. But no matter where the location the monsoon acts of the heating that has occurred to draw in the moisture. As the land mass continues to heat it begins to draw in the moisture rich tropical air from the south. As this moist air reaches the extremely hot desert it creates a very unstable atmosphere. The unstable atmosphere combined with the extreme heat of the

Arizona desert creates the perfect combination for monster thunderstorm cells to build. They usually build during the day when the temperature is at its peak. Then once they have reached their maximum moisture level they begin to drop rain. This usually occurs in the late afternoon and results in heavy flooding in relatively focused areas. This will continue to occur until the atmosphere begins to cool again in September.



Source: <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/twc/monsoon/rainfall.php>

## Monsoon Safety

### **Lightning:**

- If you hear thunder, you are close enough to a storm to be struck by lightning. Go to a safe place immediately! The safest locations are sturdy buildings and hard-topped vehicles. Wait there until 30 minutes AFTER the last rumble of thunder is heard.
- Get away from open areas, including armadas, porches, trees, convertible cars, swimming pools, and open areas.
- Plan outdoor activities to avoid being outside between mid afternoon and mid evening, especially in higher elevations where lightning is more common.
- Do not touch any wires or plumbing inside a building.
- Remember that it does not have to be raining for you to be struck by lightning. Lightning can strike up to 60 miles away from the nearest rainfall!
- Bring pets indoors. Lightning and thunder are very scary for pets, and they are likely to panic or even run away to try and escape the storm.
- If someone is struck by lightning, call 911 immediately!

### **Dust storms:**

- These are an underrated killer in Arizona! Straight line winds in any thunderstorm can lift huge clouds of dust and reduce visibilities to near zero in seconds, which can quickly result in deadly, multi-vehicle accidents on roadways.
- Dust storms are more common in the early part of the monsoon, near agricultural areas, and near Willcox Playa in Cochise County. Use caution in these areas any time thunderstorms are nearby.
- If you encounter a dust storm, pull off the road immediately. Turn off your headlights and taillights, put your vehicle in "PARK," and take your foot off the brake. Other motorists may tend to follow taillights in an attempt to get through the dust storm, and may strike your vehicle from behind.
- Dust storms usually last a few minutes, and up to an hour at most. Stay where you are until the dust storm passes.

## MONSOON SAFETY (CONT.)

### **Straight-line winds:**

- Thunderstorm wind gusts in Arizona almost always exceed 40 mph. The strongest straight line wind gusts can exceed 100 mph, and can produce damage similar to a tornado! Anytime a thunderstorm approaches, no matter how weak it seems, move indoors to avoid flying debris. Winds rushing down from a thunderstorm can develop very quickly.
- When a Severe Thunderstorm Warning is in effect, it means damaging wind gusts of 60 mph or higher are likely. Move into a central interior room. Stay away from windows.
- Unanchored mobile homes are NOT safe in any severe thunderstorms, and even anchored mobile homes can be heavily damaged in winds over 80 mph. Move to a more sturdy structure.
- Stay away from trees. The vast majority of people are killed or injured in severe thunderstorms by falling trees, from flying debris, or from downed power lines.
- Never touch a downed power line, even if it appears dead. Assume that it is live. Call for help instead.
- Straight line winds can travel dozens of miles away from the thunderstorm that produced them. If the wind suddenly shifts and blows toward you from an approaching storm, while the temperature either becomes much colder or much hotter, the winds are likely to become even stronger. Move indoors!
- Before the monsoon season, it is a good idea to either secure loose outdoor furniture and garbage cans, or move them indoors. These are frequently blown around in our summer thunderstorms – even the weakest ones.

### Sources:

[http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/twc/monsoon/monsoon\\_safety.pdf](http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/twc/monsoon/monsoon_safety.pdf)

<http://www.goldandgo.com/monsoon/index.html>

National Weather Service

If you gave me several million years, there would be nothing that did not grow in beauty if it were surrounded by water.

Jan Erik Vold, 1970

Calendar of Events

**Wednesday, August 12, 2009, 7 p.m.** August's meeting will be held at the Graham County General Services Building, 921 Thatcher Blvd., Safford, AZ

**Wednesday, September 2, 2009, 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.** Master Watershed Steward Program led by Bill Brandau  
 For more information click [here](#)

**Wednesday, September 9, 2009, 7 p.m.** September's meeting will be held at the Graham County General Services Building, 921 Thatcher Blvd., Safford, AZ

Our partners include:

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| The Office of Congressman Rick Renzi        | Coronado RC&D  |
| Arizona Department of Agriculture           | Gila Valley NRCD   |
| Arizona Department of Environmental Quality | Discovery Park   |
| Arizona Department of Transportation        | Farm Bureau  |
| Arizona Department of Water Resources       | Graham County  |
| Arizona Game and Fish Department            | Greenlee County  |
| Arizona Geological Survey                   | Gila Valley Irrigation District                              |
| Arizona State Land Department               | Natural Resource Conservation Service                        |
| Bureau of Land Management                   | Phelps Dodge Mining Company                                  |
| City of Safford                             | University of Arizona  |
| Town of Thatcher                            | Cooperative Extension  |
| Town of Pima                                | University of Arizona NEMO Project                           |
| Town of Duncan                              | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service                               |
|   | U.S. Forest Service – Apache Sitgreaves and Coronado Forests |
|   | U.S. Bureau of Reclamation                                   |
|   | And many community members                                   |

Get involved in your watershed

For more information, contact Jan Holder at the Gila Watershed Partnership, 711 S. 14th Avenue, 85546, 520-419-0374, email-watershedholder@yahoo.com