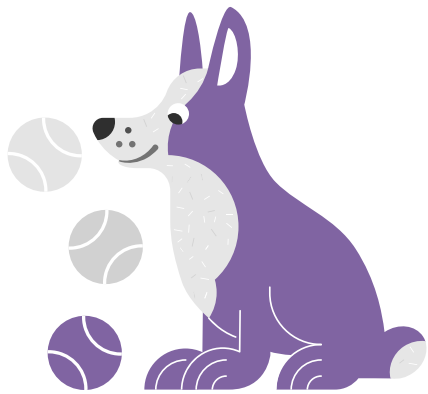




Backyard Microplastics Mitigation Checklist



Prevention

Stop Bringing Additional Microplastics Into Your Yard

- ❑ Use organic mulch (e.g. wood chips, straw, leaves) instead of plastic and synthetic barriers
- ❑ Avoid rubber mulch or synthetic turf
- ❑ Choose compost without biosolids (check the label or ask the supplier)
- ❑ Use organic, natural fertilizers (no slow-release plastic coatings)
- ❑ Hang clothes to dry or adjust direction of dryer vent away from edible gardens, patios and toys



Water & Runoff

- ❑ Do not wash synthetic items (like plastic covers or rugs) directly on ground
- ❑ Use permeable surfaces (e.g. gravel, mulch) instead of hard plastic or synthetic ground covers
- ❑ Do not use laundry pods or dryer sheets



Sharing & Caring

- ❑ Host plastic-free outdoor events and BBQs
- ❑ Ask landscapers or contractors to avoid using plastic-heavy products
- ❑ Choose durable pet toys made of natural materials



Outdoor Furniture & Equipment

- ❑ Choose natural-fiber covers and cushions (cotton, canvas, hemp)
- ❑ Avoid synthetic tarps or weatherproof plastics
- ❑ Replace deteriorating plastic furniture with wood or metal
- ❑ Store portable camp chairs and other items out of the weather to prevent deterioration and spreading of microplastics



Reduction

Remove or Contain Existing Microplastics

- ❑ Apply mature compost to promote healthy microbial activity
- ❑ Plant deep-rooted, perennial ground cover to stabilize soil
- ❑ Avoid disturbing old plastic landscape fabric buried in soil or dig it up and dispose of it properly to avoid further deterioration
- ❑ Build a rain garden or bioswale to capture and filter runoff
- ❑ Direct roof gutters to grassy or mulched areas instead of pavement
- ❑ Amend soil as needed to support biological diversity and resilience

