

HOW TO MULCH

Mulching is one of the best things you can do for your landscape. The list of benefits it provides is long and includes:

- **Controlling Soil Erosion**
- **Improved Aesthetics**
- **Insulation**
- **Moisture retention**
- **Nutrient Supplementation**
- **Weed Control**

Once you've [chosen the best mulch for your unique situation](#), it's time to decide whether to get the help of a professional landscaper like Hively, or just dig in and enjoy this fun do-it-yourself project.

There is a bit of caution you need to exercise when mulching, as improper mulching can lead to a variety of problems for your plants. These include root rot, insect and disease problems, nutrient deficiencies, and more.

If you're new to mulching or just need a refresher, here are a few tips to get the most out of your mulching project.

1 Weed

Remove any weeds so they aren't already buried in your new mulch. Weeds are pretty resilient, and it won't be long before you see them poking through your freshly mulched landscape.



2 Level

If you already have existing mulch or dirt, spread it level and break up any material that's clumped together.



3 Spread

Spread the mulch a few inches deep in any existing beds. If you notice the area usually is wet, go a bit thinner with the mulch. When mulching beneath your trees, the circle of mulch should extend out at least as wide as the tree's crown (as far as the branches extend), and if you can, a bit farther, as the roots typically extend beyond the crown.



4 Use Caution

Plants love mulch, but they don't love when it gets too close to their trunk. Leave a couple inches of space between the mulch and the trunk to avoid major damage. Do NOT mound it up against the trunk as you see some of your neighbors doing. Your home or any sheds or barn appreciate this buffer zone as well, so leave a gap of several inches between the edge of the mulch and these structures.



With these tips, you'll be a mulching expert in no time! Of course, if you run into problems, have questions, or just want to leave it to the professionals, give Hively a call at [717-292-5696](tel:717-292-5696) and we'll be happy to help!



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