

1

Cardboard Works as a Weed Barrier



These gardens use a layer of cardboard underneath the woodchips to help prevent weed growth.

This technique is called **sheet mulching**. It covers the ground with a biodegradable material, such as cardboard, followed by layers of organic material to enrich soil and prevent weeds.

Sheet Mulching Basic Steps:

1. Remove weeds and invasive plants as much as possible. Knock down and lay flat any tall weeds or unwanted woody plants.
2. Lay down a covering of your choice of materials: used cardboard, newspaper (five or six sheets deep), old cotton rags, or carpet made from natural fibers. Plastic sheeting is **not** a good choice because it's **not** biodegradable.
3. Cut slits in this layer for plants.
4. Top with layers of compost and three to six inches of mulch.

Question:

What other kinds of barriers can be used in your yard?

Answer: A screen to keep out birds or insects is an example of another barrier.

