



City of Decatur Fall Leaf Collection

The best thing to do with your leaves is mulch them with your mower a little at a time and leave them on the lawn. OR pile them up on your garden and let them decompose into free nutrients for the soil. But you can also get rid of them during the Street Department's **on-street leaf collection** which usually begins late October/early November and runs through January.

The leaf machines are operated on a continuous clockwise route throughout the City, Monday through Friday, weather permitting.

Please keep these things in mind as you prepare your leaves for pick up.

1. Do not mix leaf piles with limbs, sticks or other debris. The leaf machines are vacuums and are designed to handle ONLY LEAVES.
2. Do not put leaf piles near mailboxes.
3. Leaves should be piled along the edge of the lawn behind the curb. Do not put them in the street, gutter or drainage inlets or ditches. This creates a safety hazard for children and motorists and can cause flooding. Leaves piled on the street impede water flow and can be washed into our storm water system along with other debris, causing stopped up inlets and pipes as well as eventually polluting area waters.
4. Remove vehicles from streets to allow for a more efficient cleanup.
5. If you have alley pickup for bulky trash, you may also place the leaves there for pickup by the loader truck when it comes through.
6. Leaves may also be placed in your city-issued refuse carts (green or gray) for collection on your regular garbage day.

Leaves that are collected by the City are windrowed and transformed into mulch. The mulch is made available to residents by the Recycling Department at no charge.



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Call us if you have questions about leaf collection in Decatur!