



# City of Decatur Fall Leaf Collection

**The best thing to do with your leaves**, according to professionals, 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, but do not follow the Solid Waste loader truck routes.

**WARNING: Putting leaves in the street, gutter, or drainage inlets or ditches is against the Code of the City of Decatur, specifically Chapter 19 Solid Waste 19-3 and Chapter 19.5 Stormwater Management 19.5-7.** Doing so not only subjects you to a fine but 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. **Leaves should be piled along the edge of the lawn behind the curb.**

Please keep these other things in mind as you prepare your leaves for pickup.

1. Do not put leaf piles near mailboxes or other obstacles. Leave plenty of space for the maneuvering of the leaf machine.
2. Do not mix leaf piles with limbs, sticks or other debris. The leaf machines are vacuums and are designed to handle only leaves.
3. Contractors are responsible for hauling off their debris. This includes leaves! They are permitted to fill up a homeowner's City-provided cart but excess should be hauled off for proper disposal. (Code of Decatur, Chapter 19-9.)
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 leaf piles there for pickup by the loader truck when it comes through.
6. You may also put leaves in your City-issued refuse carts (green or gray). Or bag them and put the bags in the location where you would normally put bulky trash for loader pickup. If that service is provided in an alley, the loader truck will not service your location at the street.

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

Call us if you have questions  
leaf collection in Decatur!



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