

2020 - 2021

# LEAF COLLECTION PROGRAM

NOVEMBER 9 - JANUARY 30

**Look here for changes to this  
year's leaf collection program.**



SCAN ME

Sign up for the  
MyDPW app to  
check the leaf  
collection schedule in  
your area.



WE ARE WASHINGTON  
GOVERNMENT OF THE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
DC MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

# F

## Frequently

# A

## Asked

# Q

## Questions

## WHAT'S NEW

### Are there any changes to this year's leaf collection program?

Yes, to keep DPW crews and residents safe and healthy, this year's leaf collection will be contactless. District households serviced by DPW are asked to rake leaves into paper bags and place them in the front of the residence at the curb or in the tree box for collection.

### What is considered a residence serviced by DPW?

As defined by District of Columbia law, residences serviced by DPW are single-family homes and apartment buildings containing three residential housing units or fewer.

## USING PAPER BAGS

### Do paper bags have to be used to contain leaves?

Yes, paper bags are required to be used to contain leaves. Because leaves will be contained in paper bags, DPW is able to compost the leaves, which helps to support Mayor Bowser's Zero Waste initiative.

### Will the District provide paper bags for leaf collection?

Yes, the District will distribute twenty (20) paper bags to each residence serviced by DPW. Bags are scheduled to be delivered before the start of collection. Additional bags will not be distributed.

### If I need more than 20 paper bags for my leaf collection, where can I purchase them?

Area hardware and some retail and grocery stores sell paper bags used for leaf collection.

### If I do not receive the District provide paper bags, what should I do?

Residents should call 311 to request a paper bag delivery if the bag distribution period has elapsed and they have not received bags.

## WHERE DO I PLACE THE LEAVES?

### Is leaf collection in the front or rear?

Leaves are collected at the front of residences. Please bag leaves in paper bags and place them in your tree box or at the curb, if there is no tree box.

### What is a tree box?

Tree boxes are public space (usually box shaped) that surround trees and other plants at the front of private property. Residents are responsible for keeping the tree boxes in front of their homes in clean and safe condition.

### What do I do if all my leaves are in the backyard?

The crew dedicated to your area will only collect bagged leaves from the front of the property.

### Can I just rake my leaves into the street?

No. Piles of leaves in the street are a fire hazard and create parking and traffic issues. Only leaves bagged, in paper bags, and left at the curb or in the tree box will be collected.

### Why can't leaves be raked into storm drains?

Leaves can clog storm drains, cause street flooding, and eventually pollute the Chesapeake Bay and other local waterbodies. Proper leaf collection and disposal are important practices that help make our rivers and streams healthy.

### What will DPW do if piles of leaves on our street blow into the storm drain or are washed there during a rainstorm?

Please report piles of leaves in storm drains by calling 311 (202-737-4404) or by contacting DC Water at 202-727-2000.

### Can I rake yard waste into the tree box for collection?

No, only bagged leaves will be collected. Yard waste will be collected on scheduled trash collection day; if missed call 311 to report "Yard Waste Missed."

### Who collects the leaves in the alley?

According to city sanitation regulations, property owners are responsible for maintaining the public space immediately adjacent to their properties. If your property borders an alley, please include those leaves in your paper bags for collection from the front of the property.

### Do I have to rake my leaves again if they blow away or have seeped into the ground because of a storm?

Yes. DPW will only collect leaves in paper bags.

## WHAT IS MY COLLECTION SCHEDULE?

### How do I find out when my leaves will be collected?

Visit [dpw.dc.gov](http://dpw.dc.gov) to view a map and leaf collection schedule in your ward. While you're there, sign up for MyDPW App for reminders about the schedule for your street. Brochures including the schedules and an overview of the leaf collection program will be mailed to each DPW-serviced household before the program starts.

### What day during my collection week should I bag my leaves?

Please bag your leaves and place them at the curb or in the tree box on Sunday of your collection week.

### When will my leaves be collected if my street borders more than one collection area?

Each District Ward is divided into four or five areas and a week of collections is assigned to each area. Check your leaf brochure or online to determine when bagged leaves will be collected on your street.

Visit [dpw.dc.gov](http://dpw.dc.gov) or check MyDPW app for collection schedules. Residents who live on boundary streets may see crews making collections on one side of their street but not the opposite side because that area is on a different schedule.

### How do I find out if the schedule has changed for my street?

Sign up for alerts on MyDPW App. Also check our website at [dpw.dc.gov](http://dpw.dc.gov) for the latest information on our leaf collection program.

## WHAT ABOUT MISSED OR CHANGED COLLECTIONS?

### What causes a disruption in the schedule?

Weather events and personnel changes as a result of COVID-19 can cause a disruption to our leaf collection schedule. Each time snow or freezing rain and ice is forecasted, our DC Snow Team hits the streets to salt and pre-treat roads. This necessitates switching our equipment and crews from leaf collection duties to snow duties, which unfortunately causes delays.

### What should I do if my street is not collected on schedule?

Please call 311 (202-737-4404) or visit [311.dc.gov](http://311.dc.gov) to open a "Bagged Leaf Collection (Missed)" service request. but please wait until the last day of the designated collection in your neighborhood.

### What if I miss my collection week?

If you miss collections on your street, place your leaves in paper bags and bring them to one of three locations listed below.

#### Benning Road Transfer Station

3200 Benning Road, NE: 9AM-4PM

#### Fort Totten Transfer Station

4900 Bates Road, NE: 9AM-4PM

#### Reno Road Leaf Disposal Site

Belt Rd & Donaldson PL NW 9AM-4PM

### When can I expect to have my leaves collected once a service request has been submitted?

Leaf collection teams have five (5) days to collect leaves after a service request has been placed. The following reasons qualify for a service request to be CLOSED: leaves collected, private property, no leaf bags found, vacuum area, and street swept.

\*\*\*Please note that a service request WILL NOT be placed if the resident calls for leaf collection ahead of their scheduled time for collection. \*\*\*\*

### What should I do if I see piles of leaves out on my street after the collection has already happened?

Please call 311 (202-737-4404) to place a service request for "Bagged Leaf Collection (Missed)." After placing your service request, please allow five (5) days for the missed leaves to be collected.

## WHAT HAPPENS TO THE LEAVES AFTER COLLECTION?

### Will my leaves be recycled?

Yes, if they are raked and placed into paper bags left at the curb or in the tree box. DPW composts between 5,000 and 7,000 tons of leaves each year. Free compost is available to DC residents all year round at the Fort Totten Transfer Station.