

2020 - 2021

# LEAF COLLECTION PROGRAM

NOVEMBER 9 - JANUARY 30



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

### VACUUM COLLECTION RESUMES; NO BAGS NEEDED

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

No, leaf collection will be the same as it has been in previous years. When the leaf collection campaign was launched, District households serviced by DPW were asked to rake leaves into paper bags. Bags are no longer needed. As of October 31, residents are asked to rake their leaves and place them in the front of their residence at the curb or in the tree box for collection.

#### Why did the District announce that this year's leaf collection would be a bagged leaf program?

The bagged leaf collection program was intended to minimize collection crews' exposure to COVID-19 and

encourage composting. Resuming the vacuum collection program will help simplify composting operations and maximize employment opportunities.

#### Will collections crews be safe during the vacuum collection process?

To continue to ensure our crews' safety, they will be required to wear masks, practice social distancing, hand wash and hand sanitize frequently. Vehicles and equipment will be cleaned and sanitized before and after every use. Additional vehicles will also be used to shuttle crews to ensure social distance compliance.

#### Will collection schedules change under the vacuum leaf program?

No, collection schedules will remain the same.

#### 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.

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

As of October 31, residents are no longer being asked to bag their leaves. Leaves should be raked to the curb or into the tree box at the front of the residence. In support of Mayor Bowser's Zero Waste initiative, leaves will be composted.

#### Will the District continue to provide paper bags to residents?

The District is no longer providing paper bags to residents.

#### What should residents, who may have already received paper bags, do with the bags?

Residents can keep and use the paper bags for yard waste or for other needs.

#### Will my leaves be collected, if they are in plastic bags?

Leaves swept/raked to the curb will be composted, as well as any leaves that residents choose to place in bags by the curb.

### WHERE DO I PLACE THE LEAVES?

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

Leaves are collected at the front of residences. Please rake leaves 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 vacuum 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. Leaves raked to the curb and in tree boxes at the front of a residence will be collected by vacuum.

#### 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 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 for collection at the curb or in the tree box 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 vacuum leaves that have been raked to the curb or are in the tree box, at the front of residences.

### 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 rake my leaves?

Please rake 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 to determine when leaves will be vacuumed on your street.

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 "Leaf Season Collection" 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, residents can bring them to one of the locations listed below.

**Benning Road Transfer Station** 3200 Benning Road, NE: 9AM-4PM

**Fort Totten Transfer Station** 4900 Bates Road, NE: 9AM-4PM

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

Leaf collection teams have fifteen (15) business 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 leaves 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 "Leaf Season Collection." After placing your service request, please allow fifteen (15) business 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 at the curb or in the tree box at the front of the residence. 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.