



2023 - 2024 Leaf Collection F.A.Qs

WHO WILL RECEIVE LEAF COLLECTION SERVICE?

1. 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 or fewer residential housing units.

WHERE DO I PLACE THE LEAVES?

2. Is leaf collection in the front or rear?

Leaves are collected at the front of residences. Please rake leaves into your tree box or at the curb, if there is no tree box place leaves at your curb.

3. 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.

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

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

5. 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 left at the curb or in the tree box will be collected.

6. 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.

7. 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.

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

No, only leaves will be collected. Yard waste can be scheduled for collection by calling 311. Your collection will be scheduled on a trash collection day; if missed call 311 to report Yard Waste Missed.

9. 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 from the front of the property.

10. 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 left in the tree box or at the curb.

WHEN WILL MY LEAVES BE COLLECTED?

11. Has the leaf collection program changed?

Yes. This year DPW will not publish a collection schedule. Residents have a variety of ways to be informed about which section leaf collection is currently in and when the next section needs to rake out. Each section will receive two weekends' notice of when to rake out.

Each communication channel will be updated each Friday by 5 pm with the latest leaf collection information. Visit the [Leaf Tracker](#) on the DPW website to find out which section you're in and when it's time for you to rake your leaves to the tree box or curbside.

DPW now has the capability to project when collection will finish in one section and can project when collection can begin in another area. Residents will be notified one week before collection will occur in your assigned Ward section. Residents are advised each week to check the following for update:

- DPW website,
- MYDPW app
- DPW social media channels
- DPW Stakeholder Newsletter
- DC Channel 16
- DPW Leaf Line 202-671-LEAF (5323)

Visit the App Store on your mobile phone to download the MyDPW App for reminders about the leaf collection program, street sweeping, and more.

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

Visit our leaf tracker at dpw.dc.gov to find out when your leaves will be collected on your street. Visit the [Leaf Tracker](#) on the DPW website and enter your address to find when we will collect.

Brochures including an overview of the leaf collection program will be mailed to each DPW-serviced household before the program starts.

13. What day during my collection week should I bag my leaves?

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

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

Each District Ward is divided into four areas. Visit the DPW website and click the link to enter your address to find out when we will collect 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.

15. 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 for the latest information on our leaf collection program.

WHAT ABOUT MISSED OR CHANGED COLLECTIONS?

16. What causes a disruption in the schedule?

Weather events and personnel changes can cause delays. 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.

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

Please call 311 (202-737-4404) or visit 311.dc.gov to open a “Leaf Collection (Missed)” service request, 5 business days after DPW has announced which section has been completed.

18. Can I bring my leaves to a transfer station?

Residents can bring leaves to **Fort Totten Transfer Station** 4900 McCormack Rd, NW 20011: Monday through Friday from 10 am until 2 pm, and Saturday from 7 am until 2 pm. Leaves brought to Fort Totten during leaf collection season will be composted.

19. 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 leaves found, vacuum area, and street swept.

*****Please note that a service request WILL NOT be placed if the resident calls for leaf collection before DPW has announced the section is completed. *******

20. 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 Collection (Missed)” 5 business days after DPW has announced your section has been completed. Once a service request has been placed, please allow five (5) days for the missed leaves to be collected.

21. How do I know if I am enrolled in DPW’s trash collection assistance program?

To confirm enrollment in the agency’s trash collection assistance program, please call the DPW Solid Waste Administration Customer Service Center at 202-645-7160.

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE LEAVES AFTER COLLECTION?

22. Will my leaves be recycled?

Yes, leaves that are raked and left at the curb or in the tree box will be composted. DPW composts between 5,000 and 7,000 tons of leaves each year. Free compost is available to DC residents year-round at the Fort Totten Transfer Station.