

**YARD  
WASTE**  
COLLECTION  
PROGRAM



GOVERNMENT OF THE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
DC MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

**What is yard waste?**

DPW collects yard waste from residences that receive DPW's trash and recycling collection services. Yard waste consist of the following:

Leaves	Pinecones
Grass Clippings	Uprooted Plants
Weeds	
Bulbs	Bundled branches and
Twigs	limbs tied in 4-foot lengths

**What items should not be included in my yard waste?**

DPW will not collect yard waste that includes tree limbs and stumps, dirt, stones, rocks, broken concrete, and broken pottery flowerpots. Please visit DPW's What Goes Where Tool to learn how to recycle or dispose of these materials.

**How can I get my yard waste collected?**

DPW now collects yard waste like bulk collection. Residents must call 311 to make an appointment for yard waste collection. Residents can also visit [www.311.dc.gov](http://www.311.dc.gov) to make an appointment or download and schedule an appointment using the 311 mobile app available at the Google Play and Apple App stores.

**What kind of bag can be used for yard waste?**

DPW only collects yard waste in paper bags, which is unlike previous years when plastic bags were acceptable for collection. Beginning May 4 yard waste will only be collected in paper bags.

**Will DPW provide paper bags to residents?**

No, residents are expected to have paper bags for their yard waste collection.

**I received an Oops sticker on my yard waste, what does it mean?**

An Oops sticker may be placed on yard waste bag (s):

- Collection crews find prohibited items included in your yard waste
- Yard waste is bagged in plastic bags.

**How many bags of yard waste will DPW collect?**

DPW will collect not more than 20 paper bags of yard waste from residences that receive DPW's trash and recycling collection services.

**How should I prepare my twigs for collection?**

Bundles of branches and tree limbs no more 4 feet long and 24 inches in diameter should be tied into four-foot lengths and tied together for collection with your yard waste.

**Will my yard waste be collected if it is in a plastic bag?**

Your yard waste must be in a paper bag. If yard waste is placed out for collection in a plastic bag, the resident can 1) call 311 to reschedule an appointment for collection after the yard waste has been transferred to paper bags 2) leave the yard waste out in the plastic bag to be collected during normal trash collection day, 3) take yard waste, in paper bags to Ft. Totten transfer station.

**Do the paper bags have to be brown?**

Paper bags are not required to be brown. Any color paper bag and paper bags with handles are acceptable and will be collected.

**Does DPW plan to continue to vacuum collect leaves?**

Yes, vacuum leaf collection will continue. The leaf collection program generally runs November through January.

**Can I select multiple weeks at once, schedule in advance, or select my day?**

Residents can schedule one collection of up to 20 paper bags of yard waste every 8 days.

**What about tree limbs and branches? If I can't collect them through this service, can they be collected with bulk or dropped off?**

Small tree limbs and stumps should be tied and placed with trash for collection. These items are not acceptable for bulk collection.

**Where can I buy paper bags?**

Paper bags can be purchased at home improvement, grocery and hardware stores.

**Why do the bags have to be paper?**

Paper bags can be composted along with the yard waste whereas plastic bags are a contaminant to the composting process.

**Can I put my leaves in a bin instead of a paper bag if I want?**

During yard waste collection season, leaves must be bagged in paper bags to be collected.

**Can I use the 311 website or the DPW app instead of calling 311 to schedule my appointment?**

Yes, residents can schedule yard waste appointments using 311 by phone, on the website and through the app.

**What are some other ways I can prevent or compost yard waste?**

Please visit [zerowaste.dc.gov](http://zerowaste.dc.gov) to learn how to prevent yard waste through grass cycling or to sign up for a home composting workshop to learn how to compost at home and make a healthy soil amendment for your garden.