



# 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
- Grass Clippings
- Weeds
- Bulbs
- Twigs
- Pinecones
- Uprooted Plants
- Bundled branches and 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 can make an appointment in three ways:

1. Call 311
2. Visit [311.dc.gov](http://311.dc.gov)
3. Use the 311 mobile app available at the Google Play and Apple App stores.

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

Beginning August 9, yard waste will only be collected in paper bags. This is unlike in previous years when plastic bags were acceptable for collection.

**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 4-foot lengths and tied together for collection with your yard waste.

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

Yard waste should be placed in paper bags, and branches should be bundled. If a resident uses plastic bags, the driver may leave them behind, potentially classifying it as illegal dumping due to contamination. Consequently, another truck would have to collect it at a later date.

**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.