

LEAF COLLECTION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Why is the City changing collection?

Budgets are tight and the City needed to evaluate every program for cost savings. Leaf collection was one area that offered a major cost savings for the City. Environmentally it made sense too. Leaves that reach the stream decompose into unwanted nutrients and sediment that deplete stream oxygen and impact the stream biological community.

2. Why can't I just rake them to the street?

Lancaster Municipal Code 561.04 prohibits depositing materials into the streets or sidewalks. Raking leaves into the street blocks storm inlets and storm sewers causing street flooding and basement backups.

3. What options do I have?

There are three ways to handle leaves. Option 1 would be to mulch them in your yard or garden. Mulching allows the leaves to decompose and return nutrients to your lawn for spring growth.

Option 2 would be to compost your leaves. Composting allows microbes, fungus and insects to break down the leaves into a loam that can be used on your lawn and garden. Composting is nature's way of disposing of leaves.

Option 3 would be to bag your leaves and place them with your trash for collection on your usual day. Brown paper bags are preferred because leaves can be separated for recycling. But leaves can be placed in with your trash or in plastic bags next to your trash. They will still be collected, just not recycled.

4. How will leaves be collected?

Leaves will be picked up on your normal trash day just like your regular trash. This is true for all yard waste all year. During peak leaf season, we will run a separate truck to pick up just the leaves for recycling.

5. Where are the leaves going?

Leaves mixed with trash will go straight to the landfill. Leaves in paper bags may be landfilled, land applied or recycled.

6. What if I don't want to wait until trash day?

Ohio Mulch will accept leaves at their facility at 840 S. Columbus Street at no cost. Leaves must be in paper bags or removed from plastic bags. The number for Ohio Mulch is 740-689-1120.

7. Where can I find paper bags?

Most retail and lawn and garden stores sell brown paper bags. They are also available at Ohio Mulch.

8. Composting sounds interesting. Where can I find more information?

The best information on composting comes from the Ohio State University Extension Office. The local office is 740-653-5419. Ask for HYG-1189-99 Composting at Home or see their website at www.ohioline.osu.edu