



Enjoy the fall colors . . . but be sure to keep leaves out of the street

If you listen carefully, you may soon be able to hear the first golden leaf quiver, quake and fall to the ground. Not too long after that, you'll look out the window one day to find your entire yard covered in a patchwork mosaic of yellow, orange and red leaves and you'll wonder, "Where has the summer gone?"

Beautiful as the fall leaves are, they mean lots of yard work for local homeowners. One option for reducing your workload is to **use a mulching lawn mower to mulch leaves into your yard**. It is less time intensive than raking and the shredded leaves act as a natural fertilizer during the fall.



While you are tending to your yard, take a moment to **sweep or rake leaves and branches out of the street in front of your house**. Left in the street, they can clog storm drains, contributing to localized flooding.

When washed into nearby lakes, rivers and streams via storm drains or ditches, the leaves become a major source of phosphorus, the nutrient that allows algae to bloom in the summer.

Dispose of leaves by composting them in your yard, bringing them to your community compost facility or bagging them for curbside pick-up. Keep leaves and yard waste out of the regular garbage, and never dump them in wetlands or buffer areas – it's illegal!

