



## LEAF & YARD WASTE COLLECTION

# Rules & Regulations

Failure to follow the below rules & regulations may result in your yard waste not being collected.

### Yard Waste Collection Schedule

- » Only set yard waste out for collection on the assigned dates for your home.
- » Collection only occurs sometime during the work week following the set-out Sunday listed for your home.
- » Use the streets Division website to learn when you should set out your yard waste for pickup.
- » The website is [cityofmadison.com/YardWaste](https://cityofmadison.com/YardWaste).

### Yard Waste Information

- » Yard waste is plant debris you have raked or pulled from your lawn or garden. It includes leaves, weeds, grass clippings, and other similar material. It also includes small, thin twigs.

### Yard Waste Placement

- » Do not place leaves and yard waste in the street gutter.
- » Place yard waste on your terrace or at the road edge if there is no terrace.
- » Place yard waste at least 4 feet from obstructions, like mailboxes, trees, fire hydrants, utility poles, and so on.
- » Keep yard waste piles separate from brush piles.
  - Piles of yard waste brush mixed together will not be picked up.

### Bagging & Covering Yard Waste

- » If you bag your leaves, keep them open at the top so crews can see inside them.
- » Compostable paper leaf and lawn bags are best. Plastic bags are ripped open, and the torn bags must be left behind.
- » You can also cover your leaf piles with a tarp.

### Terrace Damaged?

Report terraces damaged from collection crews online at [cityofmadison.com/ReportaProblem](https://cityofmadison.com/ReportaProblem). Crews will repair it as soon as possible. Damage in the fall cannot be repaired until the spring most of the time.

### Street Sweeping After Yard Waste Collection

When weather conditions allow, street sweepers follow behind leaf collection crews to collect debris left in the roads. Sweepers work slowly and there are fewer sweepers than leaf pickup crews, so it may take a few days until sweepers can collect the debris left in the road.

### Yard Waste Information



### Drop-Off Sites

#### Rules

- » Sites are for City of Madison residents & taxpayers only. Proof of residency or taxpayer status is required to use the sites.
- » You are allowed 1 trip per day.
- » Your 1 load of material cannot be larger than what would fit into a standard pickup truck bed, or a single axle 5'x8' trailer. Oversized loads will be denied use of the sites.
- » Contractors may not use the drop-off sites for their professional work.

#### Hours & Locations

- » Hours and locations change seasonally.
- » Check the drop-off website for this information before loading your vehicle.
- » Website: [cityofmadison.com/DropOffSites](https://cityofmadison.com/DropOffSites)

### Contact Information

- » Areas east of S. Park Street, including the isthmus:
  - Phone: (608) 246-4532
  - Office: 4602 Sycamore Ave.
  - Office hours: Monday-Friday, 7:30am to 4:00pm
- » Areas west of S. Park Street:
  - Phone: (608) 266-4681
  - Office: 1501 W. Badger Rd.
  - Office hours: Monday-Friday, 7:30am to 4:00pm
- » Online: [cityofmadison.com/streets](https://cityofmadison.com/streets)



# Protect Our Lakes

## Keep Streets Leaf-Free

Leaves and yard waste contain phosphorus. When it rains, stormwater flows through leaf piles in streets creating a phosphorus rich "leaf tea" that travels through storm drains to our lakes. The excess phosphorus leads to toxic algae blooms, low oxygen levels and green murky water in our lakes, none of which are good for animals living in the water or those of us who use it for recreation.

## Ways You Can Help Keep Streets Leaf-Free



### COMPOST LEAVES & YARD WASTE

Composting is a simple way to manage leaves and yard waste in your own yard reducing the quantity of leaves that blow into the street. For directions on how to compost visit, [www.cityofmadison.com/streets](http://www.cityofmadison.com/streets).



### MULCH LEAVES IN PLACE

Use a mulching lawnmower to grind up leaves that fall on your lawn. Mulching them in place returns nutrients to the soil providing a source of organic fertilizer to your lawn.



### FOLLOW YARD WASTE PICKUP RULES

Place leaves and yard waste on the terrace for pickup. Never place them directly in the street. Use compostable paper leaf bags or cover piles with a tarp to prevent leaves from blowing into the street. Only set out yard waste and leaves on the dates assigned to your neighborhood. Get more information and the set-out dates for your home at [www.cityofmadison.com/yardwaste](http://www.cityofmadison.com/yardwaste).



### RAKE (OR REMOVE) LEAVES FROM THE CURB BEFORE RAINSTORMS

Removing leaves from the street before it rains is the most effective way to keep streets leaf-free. Sign up for Leaf-free Streets Rain Alerts (text or email) this fall (Oct 1-Nov 30) reminding you when its time to remove street leaves. Visit [www.ripple-effects.com](http://www.ripple-effects.com) to sign up.

