



## 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

The Streets Division collects yard waste from the curb in the spring and the fall only.

Use the Streets Division's yard waste website to learn when you should set yard waste to the curb for pickup: [www.cityofmadison.com/YardWaste](http://www.cityofmadison.com/YardWaste)

### Yard Waste Information

- » Yard waste is plant debris, such as the following:
  - Leaves
  - Pine needles
  - Grass clippings
  - Weeds
  - Rose canes
  - Corn stalks
  - Sunflower stalks
  - Vines
  - Pumpkins
  - Pine cones
  - Black walnuts
  - Crabapples
  - Flowers
- » Small sticks and thin twigs less than 18 inches in length are also considered yard waste.

### Yard Waste Placement

- » Only place leaves & yard waste out for pickup on the assigned dates for your home.
- » Do not place leaves and yard waste in the street gutter.
  - Piles in the street cause algae blooms in our lakes. Piles in the street also clog storm drains and lead to street flooding.
- » Where possible, pile material at least 4 feet from obstructions, such as mailboxes, trees, fire hydrants, street signs, parked cars, etc.
- » You can pile material at the curb one of three ways:
  - Place material into compostable paper leaf bags, or a plastic trash bag.
    - Bags must be left open at the top.
    - Compostable paper leaf bags are preferred. Plastic bags are torn open and left on the terrace or placed into your trash can if it is available.
  - Pile loose at the roadway edge or terrace.
  - Cover piles with a tarp.
- » Do not mix brush and yard waste together.
  - Brush and yard waste are separate collection operations that are processed differently.

### 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.

### Drop-Off Sites

#### Rules

- » Sites are for City of Madison residents & taxpayers only. Proof of residency or tax payer status required.
- » You are allowed 1 trip a day.
- » The single load must not exceed what would fit into a standard pick-up truck bed or 5' x 8' trailer.
- » Contractors may not use the drop-off sites for their work.

#### Locations for 2022

- » **East:** 4602 Sycamore Ave.
- » **West:** 402 South Point Rd.
- » **Central:** 121 East Olin Ave.

#### Hours

- » Contact us or check online at [www.cityofmadison.com/DropOffSites](http://www.cityofmadison.com/DropOffSites)
- » Hours change seasonally and depend on location.

### Terrace Damaged?

Contact the Streets Division if your terrace was damaged by collection. It will be repaired.

### 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](http://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.

