



## Residential Leaf Pick-up to Accept Biodegradable Bags

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For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — For the first time, Victoria residents will have the choice of placing their leaves in tied, 100% biodegradable bags or in traditional loose leaf piles for pick up at the curb. The new “bagged” option is highlighted in the *2009/2010 Residential Leaf Pick-up Schedule* that was mailed to Victoria homeowners in mid-October. Plastic bags are not allowed.

“We often hear that residents would like to use bags, but plastic bags mean havoc on collection. The City of Victoria is pleased to be able to provide Victoria residents with the option of using biodegradable bags this year,” said Ken Hilchey, Supervisor of Parks Operations. “Biodegradable bags can be composted and will help prevent leaves from clogging storm drains which can cause flooding during heavy rains.”

Available at a number of local grocery and hardware stores, the standard size 100% biodegradable bag accepted is 33 litres, and is usually clear/transparent or light green in colour.

The *2009/2010 Residential Leaf Pick-up* schedule enables residents to locate their neighbourhood on a map and note the deadline for placing leaves on the boulevard. This year’s flyer focuses on the City’s leaf pick-up service and includes helpful preparation tips. Parks crews traditionally pick up leaves from residential neighbourhoods from November to early January. Leaves and biodegradable bags will be composted at the Beacon Hill Park Maintenance Yard for future use in City garden beds.

The first neighbourhood is Fairfield. Homeowners residing in Fairfield should have their loose or bagged leaves on the boulevard by Monday, November 9. Leaf piles and leaves in biodegradable bags should be placed close to the street curb and be visible and accessible from the street. To avoid flooding and slipping hazards, leaves and bags are not to be placed in gutters, on sidewalks, or in the street. Leaves in non-biodegradable bags, containers or boxes, will be left behind.

The residential leaf pick-up schedule allows for one pick-up per household and trucks only make one pass down a street. If a return trip is required, a fee of \$40 will be charged per household’s request. Traffic patterns, school zones, road conditions, noise levels, areas prone to flooding and the types of trees on each street are taken into consideration when designing the schedule. This fall, the City will collect approximately 7,000 tonnes of leaves from over 40,000 trees.

Victoria residents can also drop off their leaf and garden waste for free, year-round at the City of Victoria Public Works Yard at 417 Garbally Road on Saturdays, from 7 a.m. – 2 p.m. Residents must show proof of residency in the form of a valid BC driver’s licence. Leaves are not accepted at the Beacon Hill Park Maintenance Yard. Homeowners can also use their leaves to make leaf mulch and to feed backyard composters.

The City's branch pick-up dates which have traditionally been noted on the *Leaf Pick-up Schedule*, will be included in the January issue of *Connect*, the City's official newsletter that is mailed to Victoria households and available online.

For more information and a copy *2009/2010 Residential Leaf Pick-up Schedule*, visit:  
[www.victoria.ca/leafpickup](http://www.victoria.ca/leafpickup)

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