VICTORIA, BC — **Monday, February 13, 2012 at 7a.m.** is the deadline for Victoria residents to have large tree branches at the curb for chipping. The City of Victoria's Residential Branch Chipping program provides residents with an opportunity to remove large tree branches from their yard.

New this year – tree branches must be 5 centimetres (2 inches) or more in diameter and longer than 1.2 metres (4 feet) in length to be fed into the City’s chipping machines. In previous years, branches were to be smaller than 5 centimetres in diameter.

Small branches, shrubs, leaves and plants are not accepted as they jam the chipping machines, posing a safety concern for City crews and resulting in poor quality wood chips. The wood chips produced will be used on City park trails and mixed with leaf mulch at the Beacon Hill Park Maintenance Yard for use as a fertilizer and to suppress weeds in City garden beds. Invasive plants such as ivy clippings and blackberry canes make the wood chips unusable.

Below are tips to placing large tree branches at the curb for chipping:

- Only large tree branches please -- with a diameter of 5 centimetres (2 inches) or more and longer than 1.2 metres (4 feet) in length.
- Loosely stack large branches into one pile with their cut ends together.
- Limit the branch pile to 1.2 metres x 1.2 metres x 1.8 metres (4 feet x 4 feet x 6 feet).
- Do not place branches in bags or boxes, or tie with string or wire.
- Have branches at the curb by 7 a.m. on Monday, February 13, 2012. City chipping vehicles make only one pass down a street. If a return trip is required, a $40 fee will be charged per household's request.

Material that cannot be chipped at the curb will be left behind for residents to remove as it cannot be transported by the chipping vehicles. Victoria residents can 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. For more information, visit: [www.victoria.ca/branchchipping](http://www.victoria.ca/branchchipping)

**For More Information:**
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