

Frequently Asked Questions

Benefits of Bagging Leaves

By placing leaves in clear, 100% compostable bags, you help reduce emissions caused by leaf blowers and other powered equipment used in leaf collection. Bagged leaves also help prevent flooding and are easier and quicker to collect, saving time and money.

Whose leaves get picked up first?

The City focuses on collecting leaves from parks, sports fields, medians, parking lots, tennis courts and streets first. Crews also ensure intersections and sidewalks remain clear for pedestrians.

Residential areas are next. Neighbourhoods with heavier volumes of leaves and early leaf drop, and areas with a higher concentration of large trees have their leaves picked up first. Neighbourhoods that are prone to flooding are given top priority.

This year, scheduled neighbourhood leaf collection begins November 12 and ends in early January. Please refer to the map on the reverse to determine the date for your neighbourhood's leaves to be set on the boulevard for pick-up.

Each year, the City of Victoria collects approximately 7,000 tonnes of leaves from over 40,000 trees. Weather and the timing of leaf drop determine how quickly the City can collect the leaves. In the event of snow or heavy rain, the leaf pick-up schedule may change.

Is there a limit to the number of leaf piles or clear, 100% compostable bags per household?

There is no limit to how many leaf piles or bags of leaves that you can place on the boulevard for residential pick-up.

Does the City of Victoria sell clear, 100% compostable bags for leaf collection?

Clear, 100% compostable bags measuring 89cm x 127cm in size can be purchased at the Public Service Centre at Victoria City Hall and at the Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre. A package of 15 bags is available for \$12.50 plus tax. The bags meet the US standard ASTM #D6400. Similar bags can be purchased at local retailers. Look for compostable bags that are marked ASTM #D6400 or EN13432.

How can I protect my grass during leaf pick-up?

To protect lawns, place leaf piles and leaves in clear, 100% compostable bags on the boulevard approximately one week before scheduled neighbourhood collection dates or call for the bags to be picked up.

How are residential leaves collected and reused?

The City has "pick-up" and "vacuum" crews for collecting loose leaf piles. "Pick-up" crews move the leaves with equipment such as blowers, tractors and rakes to a location that allows for easy access. "Vacuum" crews use a large unit that sucks up the leaves and blows them into a truck. Loose and bagged leaves are transported to the Beacon Hill Park Maintenance Yard for composting and reuse in City gardens.

Can I compost my leaves instead?

Of course. Mulched leaves are a valuable source of nutrients for potted plants, flowers, shrubs and trees. The City of Victoria encourages backyard composting wherever possible. By composting your own leaves, you also help reduce the emissions caused by leaf blowers, trucks and other powered equipment used by the leaf pick-up service.

For more information on backyard composting, contact the Greater Victoria Compost Education Centre at 250.386.9676 or visit: www.compost.bc.ca

Leaf and Garden Waste Drop-off

Victoria residents can drop off their leaf and garden waste for free, year-round at the City of Victoria Public Works Yard, 417 Garbally Road, on Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. This service is not available for commercial use. For more information, call 250.361.0400. Proof of residency in the form of a valid driver's licence is required.

Accepted Material: leaves, branches, vines and grass

Not accepted: rocks, sod, stumps or items greater than 1.8m (6') in length or 50mm (2") in diameter

For More Information

Have a question that we haven't answered? Contact us at:

City of Victoria
Parks, Recreation and Culture Department
Parks Division
T 250.361.0600
E parks@victoria.ca
www.victoria.ca/leafpickup



Leaf

PICK-UP PROGRAM
2013



What You Need to Know

Scheduled Neighbourhood Leaf Collection

City of Victoria Parks crews will soon be collecting residential leaves along your street. You can place your leaves in loose piles or in tied, clear, 100% compostable bags on the boulevard. There is no limit to the number of bags or leaf piles you can set out.

The map notes the neighbourhood deadline for residents to place leaves on the boulevard for scheduled collection. City trucks make one pass down each street. If a return trip is required, a fee of \$40 will be charged per household's request.

Bagged Leaves Call for Pick-up Service

From October 21 to December 16, 2013, Victoria residents can contact the City Parks Division at 250.361.0600 to arrange for their bagged leaves to be picked up within **five** working days at no additional charge. Callers are asked to provide their first and last name, street address and phone number. (Requests after 3 p.m. on December 16, 2013 will not be able to be processed.) This service provides you with the flexibility of having your leaves picked up before your scheduled neighbourhood collection date.

Neighbourhood Leaf Collection

- Burnside-Gorge/Harris Green/Hillside-Quadra/North Park – November 12
- Fairfield/Gonzales/Rockland – November 25
- Fernwood/Jubilee/Oaklands – December 9
- Downtown/James Bay/Victoria West – December 18

Our commitment to the environment: The environmental savings below were achieved by printing the Leaf Pick-up brochure using post-consumer recycled fibre in place of virgin fibre:

- 2 trees
- 8,518 L of water
- 24 days of water consumption
- 129 kg of waste
- 3 waste containers
- 335 kg CO² – 2,243 km driven
- 4 GJ
- 17,537 60W light bulbs for one hour
- 1 kg NOX emissions of one truck during 3 days

DO

- Locate your neighbourhood on the map and note the deadline for placing loose leaf piles and leaves in clear, 100% compostable bags on the boulevard for scheduled neighbourhood collection.
- Set out leaves only please.
- To prevent clogging and flooding, keep gutters, streets, sidewalks and storm drains clear of leaves.
- Use our "Call for Pick-up" service from October 21 to December 16, 2013 to have your bagged leaves picked up within **five** working days.
- Ensure leaf piles and bags are placed on the boulevard, and are visible and accessible from the street.



DO NOT

- Do not rake or blow leaves onto the sidewalk, or into the gutter or street.
- Do not place leaves in bags that are not clear and 100% compostable or in boxes or containers.
- Do not park your vehicle in front, beside, or on top of a leaf pile or bagged leaves.
- Do not drop off leaves at the Beacon Hill Park Maintenance Yard.

NOT ACCEPTED FOR PICK-UP

- Ivy clippings, soil, blackberry canes, rocks, morning glory, roots, garden refuse, stumps, compost, lawn clippings, branches, construction lumber or branch material from commercial tree contractors and landscaping companies.