



Bellingham DPW - Fall Leaf Cleanup Best Practices



Fallen leaves contain a natural element commonly found in lawn fertilizer, known as phosphorous. Because of this, leaves that fall on your lawn should **never** be dumped in a creek, stream, river or storm drain. Decaying leaves use up the water's oxygen that will harm aquatic life.

How to dispose of yard waste.

- Never dump leaves, grass clippings or yard waste in wetlands or waterways. It is harmful and will hurt the environment!
- Keep paved areas and storm drains clear of leaves.
- Residents can utilize the yard waste area at the Recycling & Transfer station to dispose leaves, grass clippings, brush & branches.
- Residents can put out the leaf bags on the Saturday following their recycling weeks. For 2022, if your normal trash day is Mon., Tues., Wed. **November 5th** is your day. For trash days on *Thurs.* and *Fri.* your pick-up day is **November 19th**.
- Where can I buy leaf bags? They can be purchased at most grocery stores and hardware stores.
- Home composting methods should be as far away from wetlands and storm drains as possible.

- Consider adopting a storm drain.
- Please clean a storm drain near you.
- Clear pine needles and leaves from the drains area or curb.

