

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Well, it is that time of year again when the leaves begin to fall and dealing with all that entails, consumes much of the available time of the Public Works staff. It is a daunting task they perform every year and there are some simple things we all can do to help speed the process. Here are some helpful tips:

1. Put as many leaves as possible out for pick-up by Allied Waste/Republic Service, our garbage contractor. You can use any 32 gallon container properly marked as “yard waste”, yard waste bags, or if you have a yard waste toter provided by Allied, use that. Free stickers indicating “yard waste” are available by calling Allied Waste/Republic Service or at the Village Hall. If you don’t already have a toter or need another, call 708-385-8252 and they will deliver them to your home. By putting your leaves in containers for the garbage contractor, the Public Works department will not have to stop at your house with the leaf vacuum, thus speeding the collection process and **SAVING TIME AND MONEY**. Just put the yard waste out with your regular garbage and Allied will pick it up.
2. If you’re going to put leaves out for pick up by Public Works using the leaf vacuum, make sure that you leave them on the lawn area **behind the curb**. **DO NOT PUT THEM IN THE STREET ON THE PAVEMENT!** Doing so will cause the storm drains to be blocked when it rains. Also, try as best as possible, to consolidate piles in one area.
3. **DO NOT** park your car along the street in front of the leaves you have placed behind the curb for pick-up.
4. **DO NOT** pile the leaves around fixed objects like trees, mailboxes or landscaping. The vacuum tube will not be able to reach around these objects.
5. Before the leaves start to fall in large numbers, cut your grass one more time and consider lowering the height setting on the mower. Raking leaves on short grass is lots easier than in tall grass. All of your dead flowers and other plants can also be put in the yard waste containers.
6. If you have a grass catching feature on your lawn mower, use your mower to pick up your leaves. The mower will grind up the leaves and compact them, reducing the overall volume for easier disposal.
7. **REMEMBER, BURNING LEAVES OR YARD WASTE IS PROHIBITED BY VILLAGE ORDINANCE AND ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD REGULATIONS, AS WELL AS CAUSING PROBLEMS FOR RESIDENTS WITH RESPIRATORY PROBLEMS.**