

COMPOSTING

Composting at home is the best environmental choice for managing food and yard trimmings, including leaves. Compost enhances the health of your lawn and gardens. Adding compost to soil helps soil retain moisture, reduces run-off, and increases nutrient content to help sustain healthy plants.

Diverting organic waste from the landfill conserves landfill space and reduces production of methane gas from waste decomposition. Home composting also saves the energy used to run waste collection trucks.

Composting can be done using a purchased or homemade composting bin or compost pile, or in smaller containers (even indoors) using red worms.

To learn more or purchase composting bins (\$50), contact Orange County Solid Waste Management at orangecountync.gov/recycling or recycling@orangecountync.gov

NEW: LEAVE THE LEAVES

This new program promotes environmental sustainability and eases the strain on collection services. Leaving leaves where they fall saves time and money and restores our natural environment. This process also reduces flooding and land erosion, supports bees, fireflies, birds, and wildlife, improves tree and soil health, and reduces air, water, and noise pollution.

Best: Leave the leaves where they fall.

Good: Rake leaves to the tree line or to the mulch area beneath the trees in your yard.

Okay: Use a lawnmower to mulch leaves throughout your yard.



Please keep leaves out of streets, storm drains, gutters and ditches. Yard trimmings in the street or storm drains are dangerous for cars and bikes and causes flooding. Leaves and debris washed into creeks and Jordan Lake results in difficult and costly drinking water treatment and poor water quality for recreation and wildlife.

CHRISTMAS TREES


Solid waste crews pick up Christmas trees and wreaths on the regular yard trimmings collection schedule. Trees are taken to the Orange County Landfill to be mulched. All decorations, tinsel, and any wires or other metal should be removed before leaving trees and wreaths at the curbside. Items containing metal will not be accepted for mulching. Residents of apartment complexes should place trees in designated areas as directed by property managers.



INFORMATION

Town of Chapel Hill
Public Works Department
6850 Millhouse Road
Chapel Hill, NC 27516
(919) 969-5100
www.townofchapelhill.org/leaves

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YARD TRIMMINGS & LEAF COLLECTION



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www.townofchapelhill.org/leaves

CURBSIDE LEAF COLLECTION

Public Works Department crews collect loose leaves and pine straw from late October through mid-February, in addition to weekly yard trimmings collection.

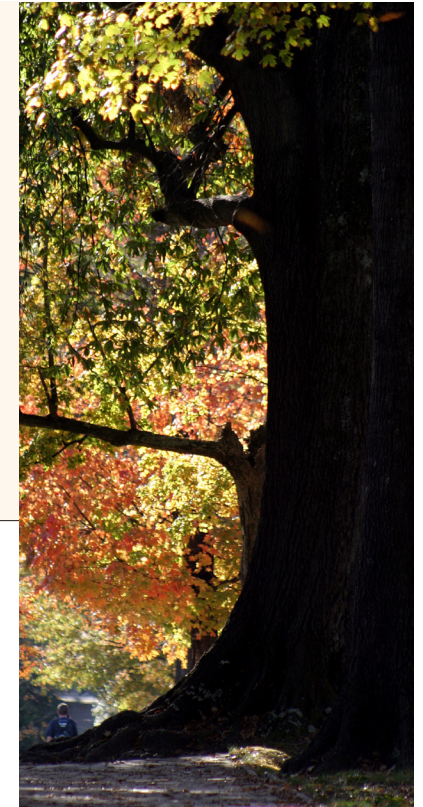
Please note the following guidelines:

- Pile loose leaves behind the curb or drainage ditch.
- Keep leaves out of streets, gutters and ditches to prevent flooding and bike and car accidents. Do not block sidewalks, fire hydrants, mail boxes, storm drains or water meters.
- Keep leaves free of brush, limbs, and other debris.
- Rake leaves early in the season.

Public Works crews make a complete circuit through Chapel Hill at least three times; leaves are collected from each neighborhood at least once before Thanksgiving.

The Town posts weekly web updates from mid-October to mid-February at www.townofchapelhill.org/leaves.

If you are unable to place loose leaves at the curb for collection, see below for information on weekly yard trimmings collection.



OTHER LEAF DISPOSAL OPTIONS WEEKLY YARD TRIMMINGS COLLECTION

The Town provides year-round weekly curbside collection from residences of yard trimmings placed in Town roll carts, paper yard waste bags or other rigid containers. Please note that while we accept paper yard waste bags, we are unable to collect yard trimmings in plastic bags, because most plastic bags do not comply with yard trimmings disposal requirements at Orange County Landfill.

Yard trimmings are collected on Thursdays from residents with Monday trash service and on Fridays for those on a Tuesday trash collection schedule. Yard trimmings are taken to Orange County where they are chipped into mulch and offered for sale at the landfill.

Yard trimmings include brush, limbs, leaves, grass clippings and other yard or garden debris. Yard trimmings or brush should be cut to less than four feet in length and less than ten inches in diameter and placed in a pile that does not exceed three cubic yards (about the size of a small pickup truckload) at one time. All yard trimmings must be behind the curb or street side.

The Town does not collect large logs, stumps, cross ties and clearing debris from lots.

YARD TRIMMINGS ROLL CARTS

Leaves placed in yard trimmings roll carts or other rigid containers will be collected year round. Yard trimmings roll carts may be purchased for \$50 from the Public Works Department.

YARD TRIMMINGS CONTAINER RENTAL

Residents may rent a 10 cubic yard container for yard trimmings on a daily or weekend basis. Containers may be rented for \$35 a day Monday through Thursday or \$60 on Fridays for the weekend.

LEAF BLOWER ORDINANCE

Leaf blowers and other motorized agricultural and landscape maintenance machinery must be operated only with emission control devices and noise muffling equipment. They may only be used during specified time periods, unless an exemption is approved by the Town Manager. In residential areas and within 100 feet of residentially zoned property, such equipment may only be operated between the hours of 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. Monday through Friday and between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

LANDFILL

Residents may haul yard trimmings to the Orange County landfill at 1514 Eubanks Road and county waste and recycling centers. For additional information, visit orangecountync.gov/1149/Waste-Recycling-Centers.

TO REQUEST LEAVES

To request delivery of leaves for mulch or compost, call the Chapel Hill Public Works Department at (919) 969-5100. Each delivery is about 16 cubic yards. That is a lot of leaves, so be sure to consider this. Partial loads cannot be delivered. Residents of Chapel Hill receive first priority. We prefer to deliver in a one-mile radius of Town limits.

