



150 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet IL 60432

Media Release

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City of Joliet Yard Waste and Leaf Disposal Guidelines

Joliet, IL – The City of Joliet: Residents are reminded of the yard waste and leaf disposal policy in the City of Joliet.

All residents disposing of yard waste and leaves in the City of Joliet should place their yard waste and leaves in rigid containers no greater than 32 gallons in size to be collected on yard waste collection days by Waste Management at the same time and location as their refuse and recycling disposal. Residents must clearly mark designated yard waste containers so that they are visible from the street. **Free** yard waste labels are available at: Joliet City Hall, Jewel Foods, and Dominick's. In addition to approved containers, residents may place their leaves in 30-gallon kraft paper yard waste bags.

Residents may also rent or purchase a 96-gallon cart from Waste Management for yard waste disposal provided that the carts are clearly identified with the "Yard Waste Only" labels. Please note: once the cart has been identified as a yard waste cart, it may only be used for landscape type waste during the yard waste season. Carts may be obtained by calling Waste Management customer service at 815.280.7854.

Yard waste is collected from April 1 through December 9. Qualified materials consist of grass and shrubbery cuttings, leaves, tree limbs, and other materials accumulated as the result of care of lawns, shrubbery, vines, and trees. Residents must bind brush, tree limbs and branches in bundles not exceeding 4 feet in length. These bundles must also not exceed 50 pounds, nor may any single piece of the bundle exceed three inches in diameter. *Unbundled brush will not be collected.*

Residents are encouraged to use fallen leaves as mulch and to protect plants over the winter months, or consider individual composting on-site, as alternative methods of disposing of leaves.

There will be no special leaf pick up service and disposal program that was formerly available in six areas within the City. That service has been discontinued.

The City prohibits placing leaves and branches on their curbs, sidewalks, parkway or streets. The City and its waste disposal contractor will **not pick up leaves** in loose piles.

When leaves have been raked into the street, the street sweepers are unable to pick up those leaves as they may be hiding debris (branches, bottles, metal, etc.) and could cause damage to the mechanical equipment. Therefore, the street sweeper will go around leaf piles and the roadway will not be cleared of leaves. The presence of leaves in the street and on the parkway will cause close off drainage and catch basins and create flooding problems, as well as increase the chance of vehicular and pedestrian accidents due to slippery surfaces.

Residents can contract with a local landscaping company to facilitate leaf pick up, raking and disposal services if they would prefer or are unable to handle bagging their own yard waste and leaves. The average cost ranges from \$75 to \$100 for simple leaf disposal up to \$150 per yard to rake and dispose of the leaves. Residents raking their own leaves that hire an outside company to dispose of them must rake leaves into piles on their own property. Leaves may not be raked to or deposited on a sidewalk, in a parkway, or onto the street.

All residents are reminded that the depositing of leaves on sidewalks, parkways and streets is prohibited by City Ordinance. The City will not collect leaves that have been placed on sidewalks, in parkways, or on the streets. Any continuing violation of this prohibition could subject the homeowner to a fine of \$150.00 or more.

The City of Joliet specifically prohibits the burning of leaves.

The City appreciates the cooperation of all residents at this time. For additional questions on the City of Joliet Yard Waste disposal procedure contact the Roadways Division at 815.724.3650 or visit www.cityofjoliet.info and click on the Garbage and Recycling Button.

The City of Joliet is the fourth largest city in the state of Illinois, located just 45 miles southwest of Chicago's Loop. Home to over 152,000 residents, in addition to thriving businesses and attractions, the City of Joliet is easily accessible by rail, auto and bus transit. A perfect place to live, work and play, Joliet is constantly striving to promote growth and diversity. For more information on Joliet visit www.visitjoliet.org or call 815.724.4000.

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