



Storm Water Management Section

FALLing Leaves

Fall has finally arrived! With the turning of the leaves we are reminded that the time has come to plan for our winter landscapes. If the thought of picking up another rake is frightening, then you're in luck! If you act now, you can decrease your time in the yard and devote more time to enjoying the season!

Keep Yard Debris Out of the Storm Drains. Believe it or not, improper disposal of yard waste pollutes our water ways. When yard waste such as grass clippings, fallen leaves, shrub trimmings, and brush get blown into the streets as a result of landscape maintenance, it is eventually washed into the nearest storm drain inlet during the next rain event. This significantly impacts the quality of the water because, unlike sanitary sewers, anything dumped into the storm drain system is discharged untreated into the nearest lake, stream, creek, or river. Also, organic materials such as grass clippings and leaves deplete the oxygen level in the water, which is harmful to aquatic life. In addition, yard waste can clog up the storm drain system and cause flooding.

Feed your Landscape...not the Landfill. Tree leaves, like grass clippings, contain valuable nutrients and provide a great source of organic matter which can be used as fertilizer. A light covering of fallen leaves can be mowed, leaving the shredded leaves in place on the lawn. This technique is most effective if a mulching mower is used, since it cuts leaves into fine pieces that fall and settle to the ground.

Other Options for Leaf Disposal. When heavy leaf cover is present, mowing the lawn is not an effective method of leaf management. In such an instance, removal of the leaves will be necessary.

Compost at home. What do you do with a heavy leaf cover? Do what farmers and gardeners have done for centuries - compost! Compost is the end product of a biological process that turns fresh leaves, grass clippings, and kitchen scraps into a dark, nutrient-rich and odorless soil conditioner. Through regular use of compost you can drastically reduce or sometimes eliminate the need for chemical fertilizers. It also helps your soil retain moisture which can reduce your water bill. Composting is an easy, simple solution that makes lawn care more convenient and saves you money.

Compost with the City of Dallas. If composting at home is not an option or if you are allergic to compost, rake leaves into bags and drop them off for composting at either one of the following City of Dallas composting sites:

Southeast – McCommas Bluff Landfill
(214) 670-0990
5100 Youngblood
Dallas, TX 75241

Northwest – Bachman Transfer Station
(214) 670-6161
9500 Harry Hines
Dallas, TX 75220

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Affix Address Label Here

Public Works and Transportation
Storm Water Management
320 E. Jefferson Blvd., Room 108
Dallas, Texas 75203

Holiday Tips for the Environment

'Tis the season to give, celebrate, and protect the environment! Here are a few simple things you can do to make a difference this holiday season:

- Gift Wrap: Reuse bows, bags, fabrics and decorative boxes. Call 3-1-1 for City of Dallas paper recycling options in your area. Buy recycled products when possible.
- Holiday Trees: Recycle your holiday tree this year. Call 3-1-1 for City of Dallas drop-off locations. Refrain from using fake snow or tinsel as neither can be recycled. Use a live, uncut tree and replant it after the holidays.
- Cards: Save old holiday cards and use for crafts, ornaments and holiday decorations. Buy recycled cards, or consider sending E-cards to save paper.
- Entertaining: Use dishes, silverware, and cloth napkins instead of disposable items. Avoid wasting food by cooking only the amount needed. Recycle all glass bottles, plastic jugs, and aluminum cans.
- Energy: Use a timer for your holiday lights to avoid keeping lights on all night. Lower your thermostat when you are not at home to save energy.

ANSWERS TO WORD SCRAMBLE PUZZLE

1. herbicides
2. call 311
3. grass clippings
4. pesticides
5. recycling
6. trash
7. motor oil
8. fertilizer
9. composting
10. sediment
11. soaps
12. yard waste
13. pet waste

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If you would like us to make a presentation for your organization about storm water pollution, or permitting requirements, contact our Education Team at (214) 948-4022 and ask to speak with Denyse Jones.

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