



Street and Environmental Services
1802 Central Parkway SW
Decatur, AL 35601
(256) 341-4740

City of Decatur Fall Leaf Collection

Professionals recommend mulching your leaves with your mower, a little at a time, and leaving them on the lawn. Or pile them in your garden and let them decompose into nutrients for the soil. But you can also get rid of them during the Solid Waste Department's **on-street leaf collection**, which usually begins late October/early November and runs through January. The leaf machines are operated on a continuous clockwise route throughout the City, Monday through Friday, weather permitting, but do not follow the Solid Waste loader truck routes.

WARNING: Putting leaves in the street, gutter, or drainage inlets or ditches is against the Code of the City of Decatur, specifically Chapter 19 Solid Waste 19-3 and Chapter 19.5 Stormwater Management 19.5-7. Doing so not only subjects you to a fine but also creates a safety hazard for children and motorists and can cause flooding. Leaves piled on the street impede water flow and can wash into our stormwater system with other debris, clogging inlets and pipes and eventually polluting area waters. *Leaves should be piled along the edge of the lawn behind the curb.*

Please keep these other things in mind as you prepare your leaves for pickup.

1. Do not put leaf piles near mailboxes or other obstacles. Leave plenty of space for the leaf machine to maneuver.
2. Do not mix leaf piles with limbs, sticks, or other debris. The leaf machines are vacuums and are designed to handle only leaves.
3. Contractors are responsible for hauling off their debris. This includes leaves! They may fill a homeowner's City-provided cart, but they must haul off excess for proper disposal. (Code of Decatur, Chapter 19-9.)
4. Remove vehicles from streets to allow for a more efficient cleanup.
5. If you have alley pickup for bulky trash, you may also place leaf piles there for pickup by the loader truck when it comes through.
6. You may also put leaves in your City-issued refuse carts (green or gray). Or bag them and place the bags where you would normally put bulky trash for loader pickup. If that service is provided in an alley, the loader truck will not service your location at the street.

The City vacuum machines windrow leaves and turn them into mulch. The Recycling Department makes the mulch available to residents at no charge.