

Got Leaves?

By Jamie Rosenthal, Ashland Conservation Commission
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We've all marveled at the vibrant colors of Fall leaves. We've held them, raked them, and sought their shade. Since leaves are everywhere this time of year, it's easy to take them for granted and forget their tendency to clog our storm drains.

Contrary to popular belief, street sweeping is not a community wide leaf pick-up program. The Conservation Commission would like to remind property owners that they are responsible for removing and disposing of fallen leaves on their property and adjacent sidewalks. Property owners should not blow or rake leaves into the street or right of way.

Compostable bags for the collection and disposal of leaves are available for purchase from Recology Ashland at 170 Oak Street. The biodegradable bags cost \$14.50 for a set of five which include curbside pickup of the bags by Recology Ashland. Each bag is nearly three feet tall and can hold up to 35 pounds of leaves.

The compostable bags, for leaves only, will be picked up on regular garbage collection/green debris and recycling days. Any leftover bags can be used at any point in the year. Customers who do not pay for Green Debris service need to call Recology Ashland to schedule the pickup of their full bags.

Recology's prepaid leaf bag program is an opportunity for those who are unable to take advantage of the two free Sunday leaf collection days (Nov 5th, and Dec 10th) at the Recycle Center on 220 Water Street from 9:00am – 4:00 pm. On those days, please arrive prepared to empty your bags of leaves yourself and take your bags back home with you.

Keeping leaves out of the street is a simple but important action we can all take to help improve water quality in our streams. The distance between your yard and the water's edge is as close as the nearest storm drain or ditch. Everyone can help maintain the health of our streams by keeping leaves out of the street and storm drains. For more information on these programs, please call Recology Ashland at 541-482-1471 or visit www.RecologyAshland.com.