



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Director

2016 Annual Leaf Collection Season

Leaf Collection Program to Begin November 7, 2016

On November 7, the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) will kick-off its annual leaf vacuum collection program, which is managed by the Division of Highway Services (DHS). Collections will take about six to eight weeks to complete depending on weather conditions and how quickly the leaves fall. DHS will make two collections in your neighborhood. Only neighborhoods in the Leaf Collection District are eligible for this service.

DHS has assigned each Leaf Collection Area a number to help you track your collection dates. Please refer to the map on the back of this notice or visit our website at <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DOT-Highway/Leaf> to find your Leaf Collection Area and the latest estimate for when the vacuum trucks will be in your community.

For additional information, including pick-up schedules, please call DHS at 240-777-7623.

First Leaf Collection

MCDOT Leafing Crews will post yellow or green Leaf Collection signs in your neighborhood several days before our first anticipated leaf pick up. The signs will be posted far enough in advance to give you a weekend to rake leaves to the edge of the road before the vacuum trucks arrive. Be sure to check DHS' website at <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DOT-Highway/Leaf/PostingLog.html> for the latest collection schedule.

Crews will remove the Leaf Collection signs once they have completed your street.

Second and Final Collection

The second and final collection will begin shortly after the Thanksgiving holiday. Once again, look for the Leaf Collection signs to be posted in your neighborhood and check online for the most accurate collection schedule.

Help Avoid Problems that can be caused by Leaves

To better serve you, MCDOT asks that you avoid raking leaves into the street; instead, pile them near the edge of your property nearest the road. Placing leaf piles in the street can cause many problems by:

- **Disrupting traffic** - Many neighborhoods have narrow streets and on-street parking. Leaf piles extending into the roadway limit parking and the ability of vehicles, especially school buses, to safely negotiate the streets.
- **Disrupting surface drainage** - Storm drains may clog when rain washes leaves into them.
- **Hampering snow removal operations** - Snow covered leaf piles can become extremely heavy and freeze to the roadway surface.
- **Creating hazardous and very slippery conditions that could lead to accidents** - When leaves get wet, they create a slick surface that makes it difficult for vehicles, pedestrians and bicyclists to stop, start or change direction.

Keeping leaf piles out of the streets prevents these problems.

Division of Highway Services

100 Edison Park Drive, 4th Floor • Gaithersburg, Maryland 20878 • 240-777-7623 • 240-777-7670
www.montgomerycountymd.gov



Rest assured that our crews will collect leaves that are placed on the grass near the roadway. This is the only safe way to store leaves for collection and will not damage lawns.

Residents Should:

- Note the information on the posted signs
- Rake leaves to the road edge or place leaves in paper yard waste bags
- Remove sticks, trash or other items that cannot be collected by the vacuum trucks
- Keep parked vehicles away from leaf piles to allow crews easy access

Please Avoid:

- Placing leaf piles in the street
- Placing sticks or other debris in the leaves
- Placing leaves in plastic bags - **Leaves placed in plastic bags will not be collected.**
- Blocking access to leaf piles by parking cars on or in front of leaf piles

Weather related factors may extend collection schedules. If weather conditions are severe, crews will use other ways to collect the leaves. Again, please refer to the website for the most up-to-date information.

If you believe that your leaves may have been missed, please contact the MC311 Call Center by dialing 311 or 240-777-0311. If you'd like to learn more about the leafing program, watch this short YouTube video filmed during last year's collection: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A2hEwL_0JwQ

MCDOT sincerely appreciates your cooperation with our efforts to promote a safe and efficient leaf collection operation in your neighborhood!

