

Neighborhood Fall Checklist

- Rake and compost leaves regularly.
- Start an outdoor compost pile for leaves.
- Always blow or rake leaves into piles on your lawn or other grassy surfaces, never onto pavement.
- Bag leaves before taking them to a drop-off site or place in a curbside container for recycling pickup by your trash service.
- Prune trees and compost or mulch trimmings.
- Mow the lawn one last time before winter. Keep grass to three inches or less.
- Aerate so plants will absorb water and nutrients over winter months.
- Fertilize your lawn in early fall - if you fertilize twice per year.
- Use organic or slow-release fertilizers.
- Store leftover fertilizer in containers with lids or in covered areas.
- Take unwanted fertilizer and other lawn chemicals to household hazardous waste sites.
- Mulch young plants before the first frost. This will keep loose soil near them from washing into storm drains, as winter snow melts.
- Dry out sprinkler systems. Freezing underground sprinkler pipes can burst and cause leaking water to wash fertilizer, leaves and grass clippings into storm drains.
- Empty rain barrels and seal them until spring.