

COMPOSTING

Composting at home is the best environmental choice for managing food and yard waste, including leaves. Compost enhances the health of your lawn and gardens. Adding compost to soil improves soil texture, helps soil retain moisture, reduces run-off, and naturally increases nutrient content to help sustain healthy plants, which are more resistant to pests and disease.

Diverting organic waste from the Orange County landfill for composting conserves precious landfill space and reduces production of methane gas from waste decomposition in the landfill after the landfill closes. Home composting also saves the energy used to run waste collection trucks, saves water in the garden, and reduces the need for pesticides and fertilizers.

Composting can be done using a purchased or homemade composting bin or compost pile, or in smaller containers (even indoors) using red worms. Layers of carbon-rich brown material (wood chips, brown leaves, or shredded newspaper) and nitrogen-rich green material (grass clippings or fruit and vegetable scraps) with the proper amount of water and oxygen decompose to form rich, dark crumbly compost, which can be added to soil or used as mulch.

To learn more about the benefits and the process of composting, visit Chapel Hill's Composting Demonstration Sites at the Chapel Hill Community Center at 120 S. Estes Drive (behind the Gene Strowd Community Rose Garden) and the Orange County Solid Waste Management Administration Office, 1207 Eubanks Road, Chapel Hill.

Composting bins may be purchased for \$50 (cash or check only) from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday–Friday from Orange County Solid Waste Administration, 1207 Eubanks Road, 27516.

More information on composting:
Orange Community Recycling, (919) 968-2788
www.orangecountync.gov/departments/solid_waste_management/mulch_and_compost.php



Please keep leaves out of streets, storm drains, gutters and ditches. Yard waste in the street or storm drains is dangerous for cars and bikes and causes flooding. Leaves and debris washed into creeks and Jordan Lake results in difficult and costly drinking water treatment and poor water quality for recreation and wildlife.

CHRISTMAS TREES

Solid waste crews pick up Christmas trees and wreaths on the regular yard waste collection schedule. Trees are taken to the Orange County Regional Landfill to be mulched. All decorations, tinsel, and any wires or other metal should be removed before leaving trees at the curbside with other yard waste. Items containing metal will not be accepted for mulching. Residents of apartment complexes should place trees in designated areas as directed by property managers.



INFORMATION

Town of Chapel Hill
Public Works Department
6850 Millhouse Road
Chapel Hill, NC 27516
(919) 969-5100
www.townofchapelhill.org/leaves

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YARD WASTE & LEAF COLLECTION



Composting is our best environmental choice for managing yard waste, including leaves

www.townofchapelhill.org/leaves

CURBSIDE LEAF COLLECTION

Public Works Department crews collect loose leaves and pine straw from late October through mid-February, in addition to weekly yard waste collection.

Please note the following guidelines:

- Pile loose leaves behind the curb or drainage ditch.
- Keep leaves out of streets, gutters and ditches to prevent flooding and bike and car accidents. Do not block sidewalks, fire hydrants, mail boxes, storm drains or water meters.
- Keep leaves free of brush, limbs, and other debris.
- Rake leaves early in the season.

Public Works crews make a complete circuit through Chapel Hill at least three times; leaves are collected from

each neighborhood at least once before Thanksgiving.

The Town posts weekly web updates from mid-October to mid-February at www.townofchapelhill.org/leaves.

An interactive map showing streets scheduled for leaf collection is available at gis.townofchapelhill.org/leaf_collection.

If you are unable to place loose leaves at the curb for collection, see below for information on weekly yard waste collection.



OTHER LEAF DISPOSAL OPTIONS

WEEKLY YARD WASTE COLLECTION

The Town provides year-round weekly curbside collection from residences of yard waste placed in Town roll carts, paper yard waste bags or other rigid containers. Please note that while we now accept paper yard waste bags, we are unable to collect yard waste in plastic bags, because most plastic bags are not compostable and do not comply with yard waste disposal requirements at Orange County Landfill.

Yard waste is collected on Thursdays from residents with Monday garbage service and on Fridays for those on a Tuesday garbage collection schedule. Yard waste is taken to Orange County where it is chipped into mulch and offered for sale at the landfill.

Yard waste includes brush, limbs, leaves, grass clippings and other yard or garden debris. Yard waste or brush should be cut to less than four feet in length and placed in a pile that does not exceed three cubic yards (about the size of a small pickup truckload) at one time. All yard waste must be behind the curb or street side.

The Town does not collect large logs, stumps, cross ties and clearing debris from lots.

YARD WASTE ROLL CARTS

Leaves placed in yard waste roll carts or other rigid containers will be collected year round. Yard waste roll carts may be purchased for \$50 from the Public Works Department.

YARD WASTE CONTAINER RENTAL

Residents may rent a 10 cubic yard container for yard waste on a daily or weekend basis. Containers may be rented for \$35 a day Monday through Thursday or \$60 on Fridays for the weekend.

LEAF BLOWER ORDINANCE

Leaf blowers and other motorized agricultural and landscape maintenance machinery must be operated only with emission control devices and noise muffling equipment. They may only be used during specified time periods, unless an exemption is approved by the Town Manager. In residential areas and within 100 feet of residentially zoned property, such equipment may only be operated between the hours of 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. Monday through Friday and between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

LANDFILL

Residents may haul yard waste debris to the Orange County landfill at 1514 Eubanks Road (fees vary depending on the size of the load).

Yard waste (loose or in paper yard waste bags--no plastic bags or paper grocery bags) is also accepted at solid waste convenience centers. For a list of locations, visit www.co.orange.nc.us/recycling/centers.asp.

TO REQUEST LEAVES

To request delivery of leaves for mulch or compost, call the Chapel Hill Public Works Department at (919) 969-5100. Each delivery is about 16 cubic yards. That is a lot of leaves, so be sure to consider this. Partial loads cannot be delivered. Residents of Chapel Hill receive first priority. We prefer to deliver in a one-mile radius of Town limits.

