



Leaves and branches make great compost for gardens.

## What can I do with my yard waste at home?

If yard waste pickup or drop-off is unavailable, inconvenient, or doesn't fit your budget, consider some other options that are good for your yard and the environment.

- **Cut it and leave it:** Some lawnmowers have mulching blades designed to chop leaves and grass into small pieces. Leaving this mix on your lawn provides free, natural fertilizer for your lawn.
- **Backyard composting:** Leaves and grass can be mixed together in a pile or container and left to break down into compost, a soil-like natural fertilizer that you can use to turbocharge your garden, at no extra cost. Composting can be done year round, and can include vegetable scraps from your kitchen.
- **Community chipping:** If you and your neighbors have a lot of bigger branches consider "chipping in" to rent a wood chipper for a day to make mulch for your yards. Check your local home improvement store or rental equipment shop for chipper rentals.



DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF  
**NATURAL RESOURCES AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL**

### Compliance and Permitting Section

89 Kings Highway  
Dover, DE 19901

**Website:** [de.gov/yardwaste](http://de.gov/yardwaste)

**Email:** [recycle@delaware.gov](mailto:recycle@delaware.gov)

**Phone:** 302-739-9403

### For more information, visit:

DNREC composting  
[de.gov/composting](http://de.gov/composting)

University of Delaware  
Cooperative Extension

[udel.edu/academics/colleges/canr/cooperative-extension/fact-sheets/recycling-leaves/](http://udel.edu/academics/colleges/canr/cooperative-extension/fact-sheets/recycling-leaves/)

Delaware Solid Waste Authority  
[www.dswa.com](http://www.dswa.com)

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## What to Do with Yard Waste in Delaware



**Visit [de.gov/yardwaste](http://de.gov/yardwaste)**



Christmas tree recycling

## What is considered yard waste?

These organic materials break down for environmentally-friendly uses:

- Grass clippings
- Prunings
- Brush and shrubbery
- Christmas trees
- Tree limbs up to 4" in diameter



Trash should never be mixed with yard waste.

## What is NOT yard waste:

These materials should be placed in your trash can:

- Pet/animal waste
- Wood fencing, deck planks, and treated lumber
- Outdoor furniture and flower pots
- Construction debris
- Dirt/soil/potting soil (place in flower beds)
- Painted wood
- Household trash

## Who will take my yard waste?

The following pickup and drop-off options can make managing yard waste easy for Delaware residents.



Leaves piled along the curbside for pickup.

### Curbside collection/home pickup

Many waste haulers who provide curbside recycling and trash services also collect yard waste. Depending on their equipment, material may be collected in a dedicated yard waste container, or placed at the curb to be picked up manually. **Do not bag yard waste unless your hauler tells you to do so.**

Here are some options that might be available from your hauler:

- **Monthly subscription service:** Many haulers provide yard waste pickup seasonally – typically weekly or bi-weekly during growing season – and this service might already be included in your regular trash bill. Since most billing is quarterly, you can request turning this service “on” for the season and “off” when the season is over, if you prefer.

- **Per-diem service:** Some haulers charge a “per bag” or “per pile” fee for curb pickup – schedule in advance, so they know to come to your house. The charge will usually appear on your next billing cycle.

### Call a local landscape company

Ask if they offer yard waste pickup for a fee.



Yard waste collection bins at a drop-off site.

### Drop-off centers

Delaware has more than 20 yard waste drop-off sites throughout the state that process yard waste into beneficial new uses. This may mean sending leaves and grass to a compost facility or chipping brush and limbs. Some of these sites charge flat rates, while others charge by weight. For the latest list of sites near you, please visit [www.de.gov/yardwaste](http://www.de.gov/yardwaste), or call 302-739-9403.

### No yard waste in your trash can:

Yard waste is banned from all Delaware landfills. The ban is designed to conserve our landfill space as well as make yard waste available for other uses such as mulch or compost.