



Leaves and branches make great compost for gardens.

What can I do with my yard waste at home?

If yard waste pick up 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, grass, and small branches into small pieces. Leaving this mix on your lawn provides free, natural fertilizer for your grass.
- **Backyard composting:** Leaves and grass can be mixed together in a pile or container 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 or yard waste, 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 & Environmental Control Universal Recycling Program

89 Kings Highway
Dover, DE 19901

Website: www.de.gov/yardwaste
Email: recycle@state.de.us
Phone: 302-739-9403, Ext. 1

For more information, visit:
DNREC Compost webpage:
de.gov/composting

**University of Delaware
Cooperative Extension**
[http://extension.udel.edu/factsheets/
yard-waste-and-composting/](http://extension.udel.edu/factsheets/yard-waste-and-composting/)

Delaware Solid Waste Authority
www.dswa.com



What to Do with Yard Waste in Delaware



www.de.gov/yardwaste



Christmas tree recycling

What is considered yard waste?

These organic materials break down for environmentally-friendly uses:

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

Delaware's yard waste ban is designed to conserve our landfill space as well as make yard waste available for other uses such as mulch.



Trash should not be mixed with yard waste.

What is NOT yard waste:

These materials should be placed in your trash bin:

- Household trash
- Pet/animal waste
- Fencing, deck planks, railroad ties, and treated or painted wood
- Outdoor furniture and flower pots
- Construction debris
- Dirt/soil

Who will take my yard waste?

These pick-up 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 might 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** and 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 two dozen 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, or to find a site near you, please visit www.de.gov/yardwaste, or call 302-739-9403, ext. 1.