



Renew Our Waters

Every choice counts.

Leave your Leaves on Land

Fall leaves provide beautiful color on trees, but in local waters they contribute to green algae blooms - not so pretty.

Cleaning up your yard in the fall properly will help keep our local waters clean too! Read these tips. Post this sheet in your garage near your rakes. Working together to keep leaves out of the storm drain and out of local waters will help keep green on the land and out of the water.

KEEP YOUR LEAVES ON YOUR PROPERTY

A great way to make sure leaves do not end up in local waters is to keep them on your property!

Mulch leaves in place by making several passes over the leaves with a mulching mower. This will keep leaves on your lawn and provide it with nutrients it needs for healthy grass next spring.

Composting is recycling your lawn trimmings and turning them into a valuable resource for your garden or houseplants!

Collect leaves and spread them in garden beds or under shrubs. Here leaves provide valuable protection for plants through the winter.

COMPOSTING

Composting is recycling your lawn trimmings and turning them into a rich soil, known as compost - a valuable resource for your garden or houseplants.

Cold composting requires little maintenance but can take up to 2 years to complete. To create a cold compost pile, mix non-woody yard wastes and let them sit.

Hot composting requires regular maintenance such as turning and watering. Typically, compost can be reached in 1-3 months. To create a hot compost pile, layer or mix roughly equal amount of high nitrogen "Greens" (wet and soft materials, like grass clippings) and high-carbon "Browns" (dry and woody, like dead leaves) with 10% bulky materials (wood chips) to keep the pile loose.

All materials in the pile must stay moist, but not soaking wet. Add water to maintain conditions conducive to the composting process. Turn the pile often.

RAKING & COLLECTION

If you decide to collect your leaves for removal from your yard, follow your community leaf collection policies and schedules. Put a tarp over leaf piles between pick-up times to prevent them from blowing away. Remove leaves and debris from the gutters and storm sewer outlets.

Stormwater is rain or snowmelt and water from things people do, like overwatering the lawn or letting fertilizer fall into the street drain. We can choose products carefully and shape our lawns and pavement so water sinks in. When we do, runoff is reduced, pollutants filter out and streams and groundwater are protected.

Untreated runoff is the biggest threat to our nation's water quality, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Let's make the small, important changes that will reduce that threat and improve water quality and our lives!

Realize

What touches the ground enters the water

Northeast Wisconsin Stormwater Consortium

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RenewOurWaters.org