



[Loose Leaf Collection 101](#)

Loose leaf collection is a residential service for citizens living inside the City of Lakeland limits who do their own yard work. The equipment used is outfitted with large vacuums, which lift and deposit the leaves into dump boxes mounted on the trailers and are then hauled away when full.

Crews will only collect loose leaf piles from in front of homes.

[Leaf Disposal](#)

Leaves are considered a solid waste and should be either recycled or disposed of properly to provide safe, clean streets and to prevent issues within the stormwater drainage system.

The City of Lakeland encourages residents to utilize eco-friendly options such as mulching or backyard composting whenever possible. You can turn the leaves into mulch simply by using your lawn mower to cut the leaves up.

[Leaf Collection Scheduling](#)

Loose leaf piles are collected in the fall and winter months. The season begins in November and runs through February. It is the responsibility of each resident to make him or herself aware of that season's schedule and to have their loose-leaf pile prepared in time for collection. The schedule is released in October.

Leaf Collection Placement

Residents must place loose leaf piles at the edge of their yard close enough to the street that the vacuum equipment can reach them; this is typically the area between the curb and sidewalk. Leaf piles can be no more than six feet from the edge of the curb for crews to collect for the equipment to reach them.

Do not rake or blow leaves into the street as they present a safety hazard and a flooding concern when leaves are washed into storm drains.

Loose Leaf Collection Process

City crews make one pass each month using equipment, which vacuums the loose-leaf piles off the ground. Trucks work their way through the City by pre-assigned routes, alternating the starting point from year to year. Each neighborhood is worked based on a street-by-street pattern like your mail carrier delivering mail. As the truck drives down each street, it stops once in front of each house to vacuum any leaf pile there. Once a street, neighborhood or route is completed, the truck does not go back to that location until the next month's collection.

Residents must place leaf piles at the edge of their yard, free from foreign debris and away from potential obstructions but close enough to the street that equipment can reach them. Do NOT rake or blow leaves into the street. Foreign debris such as limbs, vines, rocks and trash can cause damage to the vacuum equipment so keep them out of your pile. Examples of potential obstructions include but are not limited to: parked vehicles, mailboxes, fire hydrants, water meters, guy wires, utility boxes, fences and landscaping. Due to the risk of damage, leaf piles too close to obstructions or mixed with foreign debris will NOT be collected.

Leaf piles that are put out after the date and time listed for your area may not be collected. It will take crews anywhere from several days to all week to complete an area. The loose-leaf collection can be affected by both weather and volume of leaves so this schedule is subject to change without notice.