



As of January 20, 2010

YARD WASTE (Compost it!) Guidelines

Starting Yard Waste Collection

Requesting Yard Waste Collection: Yard Waste collection is available year round on your regularly scheduled collection day if you purchase "Compost it!" stickers and bags and follow the yard waste requirements.

Purchasing "Compost it!" Stickers and Bags:

- Stickers and bags can be purchased at: Hy-Vee and Dahls stores located inside the City of Des Moines
- [List of Stores to Buy Stickers](#)
- If you use a non "Compost it!" bag you must attach a green "Compost it!" stickers to the bag

Yard Waste Questions: Call the Public Works 24-hour Customer Service Center at (515) 283-4950 or [Submit Your Request Online](#).

Premium Yard Waste Program:

- This program utilizes a wheeled card for year round disposal of leaf and yard debris.
- Enroll in the Premium Yard Waste Program by calling the Public Works 24-hour Customer Service Center at 283-4950 or by [Submit Your Request Online](#).
- Click here for details and requirements for the Premium Yard Waste Program. This should point to the information below about this topic.

Yard Waste Collection Days

Collection Day: Yard waste is picked up on your regular garbage collection day. [Collection Schedule](#)

Before Collection: Place yard waste at the designated location no later than 6:30 a.m. on the scheduled collection day and no earlier than 5:00 p.m. the day before the scheduled collection.

Collection Timeframe: Collection starts at approximately 7:00 a.m.

Missed Collection: Report missed yard waste collection by Calling our 24-hour Customer Service Center at (515) 283-4950 or completing a [Public Works Request Form](#)

Collection Day Exceptions: When the holidays below fall on a weekday garbage is not collected. Since there is no service, collection will be delayed one day for the remainder of the week.

New Years
Memorial Day
4th of July
Labor Day
Thanksgiving Day
Christmas Day

Yard Waste Requirements

What's Collected?:

- Grass Clippings
- Leaves
- Hedge Trimmings
- Flower and Garden Plantings
- Brush and Branches
- Twigs
- Brush
- Branches
- Whole Christmas Trees (attach 1 "compost it!" sticker and make sure all tinsel is removed and it is not in a plastic bag)

What's NOT Collected?:

- Pet Waste
- Landscaping Rocks
- Plastic
- Tree Stumps

Requirements for Brush and Branches:

- Branches must be cut to 4 foot lengths or less and tied in bundles
- Bundles cannot exceed 1.5 feet in diameter
- Limbs must be 2 ½ inches in diameter or less (limbs, stumps, or logs larger than this will not be collected)
- Weight limit for each bundle is 40 lbs.
- Attach a "Compost it!" sticker to each bundle

Yard Waste Containers:

- Yard Waste may be placed in acceptable paper bags, boxes or bundles
- Acceptable paper bags include:
 - "Compost it!" bags, which do not require a sticker, or
 - Store-brand/generic paper yard waste bags which do require a "Compost it!" sticker for each bag
- You can use a cardboard box no larger than 2x2x3 feet if you attach a "Compost it!" sticker to it
- Yard waste will not be collected if it is in plastic bags
- Do not place your yard waste in the blue (recycling) or brown (garbage) collection carts

Yard Waste Placement

Yard Waste Carts, Bags, Boxes, or Bundles should be placed:

- Within 18 inches of the curb
- So the short metal bar faces the street
- At least 7 feet away from permanent structures (mailboxes, walls, utility poles, etc.)
- At least 3 feet away from Yard waste bags/cards and other large items
- On a level surface

"Compost it!" Program Fines

Leaves and Grass Clippings:

- Leaves blown or raked into the street reduce traction for vehicles and clog storm sewers, preventing rain runoff from flowing into street drains.
- Report this type of activity by calling the Public Works 24-hour Customer Service Center at 283-4950 or [Submit Your Request Online](#).

- A city ordinance states residents as well as landscape companies may be fined for placing leaves or grass clippings in city streets.
- The fines for violations are:
 - \$50 for the first offense
 - \$75 for the second offense within the same year
 - \$100 for the third offense