



Properly dispose of yard waste.

- Remove yard waste from streets, sidewalks, and driveways.
- Blow or sweep grass clippings or tree leaves into the yard where they can help provide additional nutrients to the lawn.
- Don't Bag It™! Use grass clippings or leaves as mulch to fertilize the lawn and protect landscape plants from extreme weather. Mulching mowers make this easy.
- If your clients have a compost bin, add extra yard waste to that bin.

Help keep yard waste where it belongs—on the lawn!



Produced by:

The North Central Texas Council of Governments
in cooperation with
Regional Storm Water Management
Program participants.



For more information visit
www.dfwstormwater.com/yardwaste



Landscape Maintenance Companies

How to be an expert
and keep your
environmentally-friendly
clients happy!



Environmentally-friendly clients and landscape maintenance companies, like you, are becoming aware of the impact improper disposal of grass clippings, fallen tree leaves, and other yard waste has on the landscape, wallet, and local lakes, rivers, streams, and creeks.

If you want to be an expert and make your clients happy, **keep yard waste out of the street, sidewalk, driveway, and storm drain.** Here's why:

Improve your clients' landscape with less work!

Don't rake and bag fallen tree leaves or bag grass clippings.

Instead, to keep these nutrients where they can nourish the lawn, mulch grass clippings and leaves and **leave them on the lawn**, or compost them. This will provide a natural fertilizer for the lawn to save you time and energy!

Did you know?

Grass clippings left on the lawn will provide up to 25% of the lawn's total fertilizer needs.

Leaves contain 50 to 80% of the nutrients a plant extracts from the soil and air during the season.

Save money!

Bagging grass clippings, tree leaves, and other yard waste and placing them into the curbside garbage collection system:

- uses **valuable landfill** space and
- **costs residents** more in taxes and service fees.

Fact: During the year, at least 20% of the solid waste generated by Texans comes from grass clippings, tree leaves, and other yard waste.

If grass clippings and/or leaves are swept or blown into a nearby storm drain, the **storm drain may become clogged and cause flooding.**

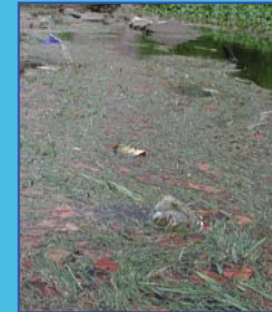
The city must then clean the storm drain, which uses up tax dollars.

Avoid a ticket!

In many cities blowing or sweeping yard waste into the storm drain is **illegal**, and you could **receive a ticket** for this violation!

Be environmentally-friendly!

Yard waste blown or swept in the street, sidewalk, driveway, or storm drain can **end up in nearby creeks, streams, rivers, and lakes** during a storm or when watering the lawn.



- Yard waste in a local waterway can **kill fish** and other aquatic life because it uses oxygen from the water.
- Improperly applied fertilizers can **wash down the storm drain** and harm aquatic life.

By using yard waste as a natural fertilizer, you can help

reduce storm water pollution.