



# It's raking season

The leaves are turning yellow, orange, and red. The air is crisp and cool. Daylight hours are getting shorter. You know what that means — it's time for outdoor chores! Meanwhile, the City of Fort Wayne has been getting ready, prepping trucks and staff for the annual curbside leaf pick-up.

This year, the City Street Department will again have two cycles of leaf collection in each neighborhood. Leaf collection begins on November 4 in the South area, generally south of Aboite Center, Engle, Rudisill, and McKinnie. Crews will then move to the North area of the City for the week of November 12th and after that to the Central area the week of November 18th. A second round of leaf pick-up will follow — with all collection scheduled to be finished on December 20th.

To help make leaf pick-up most effective for your neighborhood, please keep the following in mind:

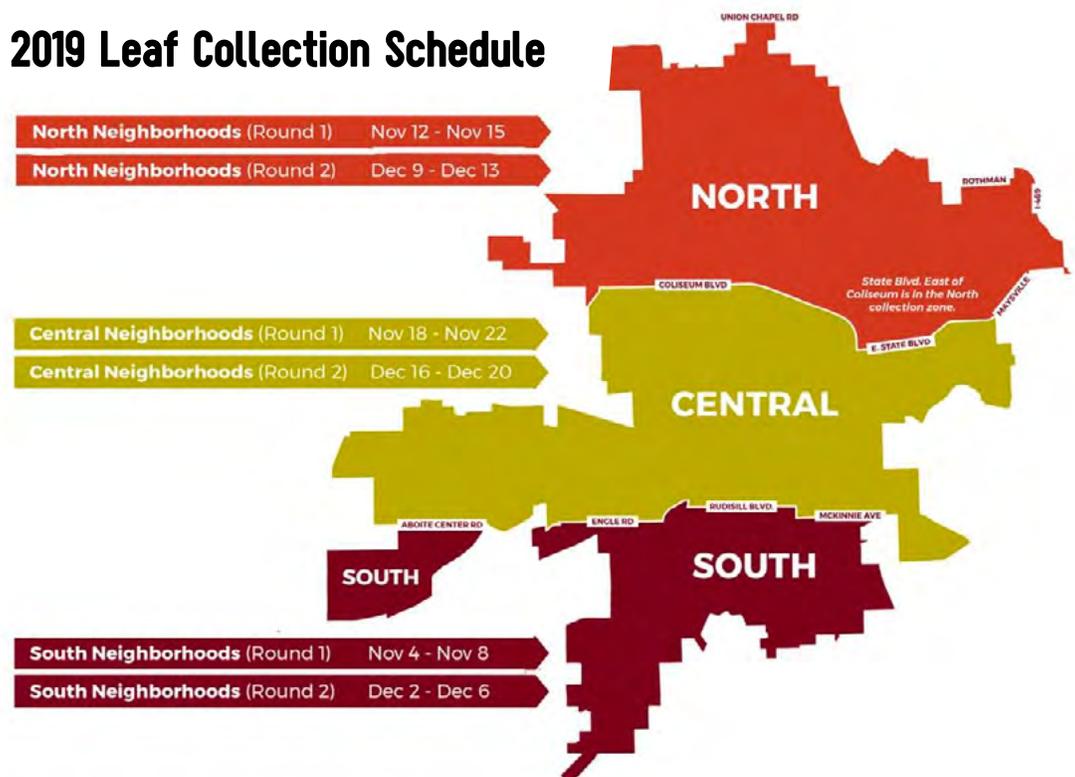
- Have leaves raked to the park strip or curb and ready for pickup on the first day of your scheduled weeks.
- Please do not rake leaves into the street. This will keep leaves from clogging storm drain inlets and will help prevent street flooding in the event of heavy rains.
- Do not burn leaves. Burning leaves within City limits is a violation of City Code §74.70. The fine is \$50 and increases to \$75 if not paid within 30 days.

If you bag your leaves in biodegradable paper bags, please call 311 for pick-up. Bagged leaves will be picked up within two business days after you call.

Remember — no leaves may be disposed with your garbage. Leaves are only accepted at the curb in brown bags and from leaf piles on the parkway strip.

Weather conditions or the volume of leaves may cause changes to the schedule. If you have questions, visit [www.cityoffortwayne.org/leaves](http://www.cityoffortwayne.org/leaves) or call the Leaf Hotline at 260-427-2302 or the Citizens Services Center at 311.

## 2019 Leaf Collection Schedule





# Holiday trash pickup reminder

There will be no trash and recycling pickup on these holidays. If your regular collection day is on or after the holiday, your services will be one day later than normal that week.

Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 28

Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25

New Year's Day, Wednesday, January 1

Visit  
[www.RecycleFortWayne.org](http://www.RecycleFortWayne.org)  
for details.

## Did you know?

Each person in the United States produces an average of 4 pounds of household hazardous waste (HHW) every year. This means an average U.S. household generates more than 20 pounds per year. Annually, U.S. households generate about 530,000 tons of HHW!

HHW can easily accumulate in your home, often remaining until you move, remodel, or undertake a large clean-out. This stored HHW can create risks to your family and emergency workers in the event of fires or natural disasters. It's best to dispose of unwanted products promptly.

So take a look at your household products this month and decide what you don't need. Take all unwanted HHW to the Allen County Household Hazardous Waste Facility at 2260 Carroll Road in Fort Wayne. Residents must enter the facility from Recovery Road via Lima Road. Drop-off hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Tuesdays. Minimal fees will apply. There is a weight limit of 50 pounds per visit.

Please keep chemicals in their original, labeled containers. Remember, never mix chemicals together. When loading HHW into your car or van, place items into a cardboard box in the trunk or in the very back, as far away from passengers as possible.

For more information, visit [www.acwastewatcher.org/household-hazardous-waste/facility](http://www.acwastewatcher.org/household-hazardous-waste/facility) or call 260-449-4433.

**DO BRING**

- Automotive Fluids
- Fertilizers
- Fire Extinguishers
- Household Batteries
- Household Cleaners
- Lead-Acid Batteries
- Mercury/Mercury-containing items (e.g., fluorescent bulbs)
- Oil-based paint
- Pesticides & Herbicides
- Propane Tanks
- Pool Chemicals

**DO NOT BRING**

- Appliances
- Explosives
- Electronic Materials
- Infectious Waste
- Industrial Hazardous Waste
- Latex Paint
- Medications
- Radioactive Materials
- Steel Drums
- Tires

## America Recycles Day

Each year in November, we celebrate America Recycles Day, which reminds us about the important economic and environmental benefits of recycling. Since the 1980s, the national recycling rate has steadily increased and currently sits just above 34%. In order to continue this upward trend, Keep America Beautiful asks us to find new ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle.

Recycling is the easiest thing we can do 365 days a year to save energy, conserve natural resources, and create green jobs. Take the pledge for America Recycles Day and commit to taking action. When you pledge this year, you have the option of choosing one item that you'll recycle more than you have in the past. Nationwide, Americans recycle more than 65% of paper, but just above 30% of plastic milk jugs. Think about something you might not normally recycle, like cell phones or shampoo bottles, and make an effort to increase your recovery of that item.

Go to [www.americarecyclesday.org](http://www.americarecyclesday.org) to learn more about America Recycles Day and to pledge your support. If you have any questions about local recycling programs, visit [www.RecycleFortWayne.org](http://www.RecycleFortWayne.org).



# Smart holiday recycling

## Please Put These Items in Your Recycle Cart:

- non-metallic wrapping paper and gift bags (handles removed)
- tissue paper
- cardboard
- gift boxes and shoe boxes
- aluminum foil and food trays (rinsed to remove food)
- greeting cards, envelopes, gift cards, and tags
- old calendars (remove metal or plastic coils; staples OK)



## Please Do NOT Put These Items in Your Recycle Cart:

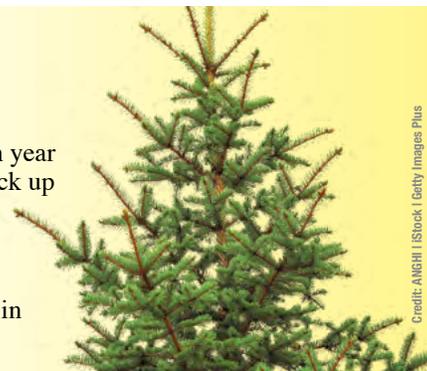
- No foil or metal-looking wrapping paper or gift bags
- No ribbons, bows, beads, string, garland, or tinsel
- No holiday decorations (lights, bells, ornaments, etc.)
- No bubble wrap
- No plastic toys
- No batteries, electronics, or Christmas trees (Visit [www.acwastewatcher.org](http://www.acwastewatcher.org) to learn where to recycle these items.)



# Christmas tree recycling

The National Christmas Tree Association estimates that 25 to 30 million trees are sold each year in the United States. Before you know it, the holidays will be over and it will be time to pack up the decorations for another year. Ornaments, tinsel, lights, stands, and plastic bags must be removed from the tree before it is dropped off. Drop-off locations for cut, real Christmas trees will be announced in December. For details, visit [www.acwastewatcher.org](http://www.acwastewatcher.org).

Wreaths are not accepted at the Christmas tree recycling locations. Wreaths may be placed in your garbage cart.



Credit: ANGRILLI | iStock | Images Plus

# Slow down to get around

In 2018, 42 trash and recycling collection workers died on the job. According to the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA), half of these deaths resulted from a worker being struck by a motorist. Slow Down to Get Around laws, which have been passed by Indiana and 29 other states so far, require that motorists slow down and move over when they see a collection vehicle on its route. These laws don't just protect collection workers — they also protect you and your family. Last year, 101 members of the public were killed in incidents that involved the trash and recycling industry.

When you see a trash or recycling truck stopped or slowed, follow the steps below to avoid accidents — the life you save may be your own.

- **Slow down** when approaching a garbage or recycling truck making its rounds. Stop, if necessary, to allow workers to do their jobs.
- **Look for workers** before attempting to pass the truck.
- **Check for traffic** approaching from the opposite direction before attempting to pass the truck.
- **Avoid distractions** like texting, talking on the phone, adjusting your entertainment system, or programming your GPS while driving near a garbage truck.



# Tackling contamination

Fall is football season. And you can be part of the team by tackling recycling contamination. With recycling, the best offense is a good defense. That means looking upfield and making sure that no trash sneaks through the line of scrimmage and heads toward the end zone (well, the curb, actually). You are the final line of defense.

Your recycle cart is for recyclable materials only. If you aren't sure what you can recycle, go to [www.RecycleFortWayne.org](http://www.RecycleFortWayne.org) and print out the "Recycle Cart Do's & Don'ts." Post this list on your fridge or near your cart. Make sure everyone on your team knows what materials are in play.

In the meantime, a good recycling defender remembers to keep these four items OUT of the cart:

- NO cords or chains
- NO clothing
- NO toys
- NO yard waste

If you don't have a recycle cart, call 311 and request one at no extra charge. We want everyone in the game!



## Clear drains prevent flooding

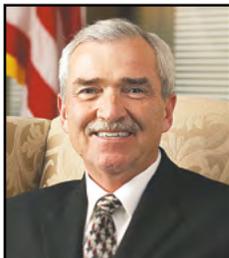
Sometimes heavy rains can totally overwhelm Fort Wayne's storm sewer system. In autumn, fallen leaves can block storm drain inlets causing standing water and localized flooding even during smaller rain storms. You and your neighbors can protect your property and help ensure that emergency and other vehicles have access to your neighborhood by doing the following:

1. Be a good neighbor and remove leaves and other material from the gutters and storm sewer inlets near your home before it rains. This helps prevent street flooding during storms and keeps your neighborhood looking tidy and well maintained.
2. If you notice that your street is flooding, clear accumulated leaves and other debris from storm sewer inlets to keep the water flowing.
3. Manage yard waste properly by keeping it out of the street and storm drain.
4. Never pour chemicals, grease, oil, paint, or any other fluids down storm sewers.

Fort Wayne's Street Department employees will pick up leaves and will clean leaves off the streets, and City Utilities has a program to clean the city's approximately 19,500 inlets about once every three years. But the City also relies on your efforts as a good neighbor to reduce flooding and protect property in your neighborhood.



Clear storm drains of fallen leaves and other debris to reduce the chance of localized street flooding.



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