



TO LEAVE OR LEAVE? NOT TO

(THAT IS THE QUESTION, SORT OF.)

The changing colors and falling leaves can be pretty this time of year, but can also cause major problems for our storm systems and streams. Here are a few tips on how to deal with this issue.

Leaves are a good source of mulch. The best thing to do is to rake or blow the leaves into natural areas. This will keep the ground moist which is good for growing plants and shrubs. This also prevents the erosion of the soil.

Leaves should be used on the property where they fall in order to return nutrients to the ground through composting. However, most properties will have more leaves fall than can be used on their property, so another method of disposal must be used. City of Griffin Solid Waste will pick up leaves raked into a pile not to exceed 8' in length by 4' in width by 4' in height. Bagged leaves are unlimited but must be placed in biodegradable paper bags. Leaves placed in trash bags, plastic bags, etc. will not be picked up.

Leaves should never be disposed of by being blown into the street. Not only can this be an eyesore for the neighborhood, it can also wreak havoc on the City's storm drains. Leaves blown into storm drains can cause clogging and even flooding of the system. Blowing leaves into the storm system is a violation of both city and state ordinances. Once a violation is reported, the Code Enforcement Officers for the city will cite those responsible and have them make the necessary corrections.

Composting leaves and yard debris is an easy and effective way to transform the seasonal debris into nutrient-rich, water-saving, soil-enhancing material. The practice of composting also reduces the volume of yard waste sent to landfills. Also, by using the compost in gardens, the need is lessened to purchase expensive commercial soils in the spring.