

## Recycling Leaves

This year, recycle your leaves at home rather than burning, leaving them for street-side pickup or sending them to a municipal compost site.

There are a variety of ways to use your own leaves in your yard. Oak leaves do not make soils too acidic so they can be used, too.

- Let the leaves lie as they fall on gardens and wooded areas. Remove them from lawns, however.
- Use shredded or chopped leaves as mulch around trees, shrubs and perennials. A blanket of leaves is also good insulation during winter months.
- Turn your leaves into “black gold” by composting them yourself, then use the finished compost to improve your garden soil. Consult extension publications or other sources for information on composting to get started with this easy process.



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## Additional Resources

### Recycling Leaves

- UW-Extension SHWEC Compost Education Series *Common Backyard Composting Questions and Answers*, at <http://www3.uwm.edu/Dept/shwec/publications/cabinet/composting/CommonBackyardCompostingQA.pdf>
- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources PUBL-SW-182 93 *Home Composting: The Complete Composter* at <http://dnr.wi.gov/files/PDF/pubs/wa/wa182.pdf>
- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources PUB-WA-072 2001 *Home Composting: Reap A Heap of Benefits* (a brochure) at <http://dnr.wi.gov/files/PDF/pubs/wa/wa1149.pdf>

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