

City of Racine Proposed “Green” Waste Handling System

Green Waste is defined as biodegradable vegetation and plant waste from residential properties, such as: leaves; grass clippings; flower cuttings; hedge trimmings, and brush/branches 6 inches or less in diameter.

- **Yard Waste** is defined as materials such as flowers, garden plants trimmings and grass clippings.
- **Branches and Brush** are materials such as bushes and tree branches that must be prepared to be picked up curb side: branches not exceeding a 6” diameter by 6’ length tied in a maximum 2’ bundle size to facilitate machine collection.
- **Leaves** are shed by deciduous trees and bushes in the fall and are currently picked up along the curb-line continually in the fall of each year and during one pass through the city each spring.

Our intent is to allow all green wastes to be picked up from the curb-line during both the spring and fall leaf collections.

Brush and branches will be picked up at curb-line, when properly prepared, on a “call in” basis, and will be considered a bulky waste collection.

Residences may subscribe to a scheduled yard waste collection service from May through September using 65-gallon carts purchased from the City, emptied with cart tippers. Customers will be required to pre-pay for the service by March 31st of each year.

65-gallon carts cost \$50 for each, and the seasonal collection cost will be based on the number of monthly system-wide collections at \$10 per collection, i.e. if the Common Council adopts monthly collections, the seasonal fee will be \$50 per customer; if semi-monthly collections are adopted, the seasonal fee will be \$100 per customer.

Customers are encouraged to compost their green wastes within standards to be established in municipal code (Section 79.12.5 of the Milwaukee Municipal Code is attached as an example ordinance). The Department of Public Works will partner with local gardening and horticulture organizations to sell compost bins and hold composting workshops.

Residential customers have the option to bring green wastes to the Pearl Street and satellite drop-off facilities, when open, at no charge. These facilities allow branches up to 6" in diameter, with no need to be bundled. Proof of residency is required when items are dropped off.

City of Milwaukee Municipal Code

79-12.5. Regulation of Compost Piles.

1. COMPOST PILES. Compost piles shall consist primarily of yard waste. The following items are specifically prohibited from inclusion in any compost pile:

- a. Oils, grease and lard.
- b. Dairy or meat products.
- c. Feces - human, dog, cat or bird.
- d. Diseased plant waste.
- e. Poisonous substances.
- f. Treated lumber, sawdust from treated lumber.
- g. Materials that have been treated with chemicals.
- h. Inorganic material.

2. COMPOSTING BINS. All compost piles shall be contained in composting bins.

a. Composting bins shall meet the following specifications:

a-1. Each bin shall be no taller than 5 feet and the total volume of all bins on a property shall not exceed 125 cubic feet.

a-2. Each bin shall be constructed of commercial-grade material such as heavy-duty plastic, cinderblock, brick, wood or of such other materials as may be approved by the commissioner.

a-3. Each bin shall be built with a hood that permits the venting of gasses without permitting the entrance of rodents.

a-4. Each bin shall be maintained so as to inhibit the entrance of rodents, flying insects and other pests.

a-5. Each bin shall be maintained using proper composting techniques including, but not limited to, timely aeration, soil addition and the monitoring of moisture content.

b. Composting bins shall not be placed in front yards and shall be placed no less than 20 feet from any habitable structure.