

# FALL FOLIAGE FACTS

## ONLY RAIN DOWN THE STORM DRAIN

**F**all is a beautiful time of year in the Roanoke Valley! Bright colors, glorious views, crisp mountain air. But, once the annual leaf drop begins, the number of drainage and flooding complaints made to the («<sup>3</sup> a dramatically increases. *WHY?* Because folks often mismanage the leaves that end up on their property by improperly raking them or blowing them into the street, drainage swales, drainage ditches, curb and gutter system, or nearby creeks. *THE RESULT:* clogged drainage structures and drainage-ways, and increased street flooding.

### BAGGED LEAF COLLECTION

As a service to its residents and to help prevent the above situation, the Town offers loose leaf and bagged leaf collection each year in the fall. To find out more information, please visit the “Recycling” page on the Town's website: <http://www.vintonva.gov/index.aspx?nid=246>



### Important Items to Remember:

- Leaves should be raked no closer than one foot and no further than five feet from the back of the curb or edge of the street located in front of the residence.
- Do not place leaves in the street or gutter as this may cause rainwater to pond and leaves to wash into the roadway creating hazards and obstructing traffic.
- Sticks, limbs, rocks and other debris should not be included in the leaves as these items can clog and damage the equipment.
- Leaves must be raked to the proper location by 7:00 a.m. Leaves should not be put out too early, and should not block sidewalks.
- Bagged leaves will be collected weekly on the resident's regular refuse collection day.
- Weather and equipment breakdown issues can cause delays.



### OTHER WAYS TO MANAGE LEAVES

If you prefer a more environmentally-friendly approach to leaf management, you can let the leaves “work for you” by employing either of the following options:

- **Mulch/mow** - using a standard rotary or a mulching mower, chop the leaves in your yard and leave them in place. They won't hurt the lawn but might limit weeds!
- **Collect leaves and compost them** - compost is a great additive for gardens and flower beds, and it is virtually free! To effectively compost leaves and other yard waste, consult the Virginia Cooperative Extension's publication 426-70, entitled “Making Compost from Yard Waste” on the following webpage: [http://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/426/426-703/426-703\\_pdf.pdf](http://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/426/426-703/426-703_pdf.pdf)

**D**ID YOU KNOW? Leaves that are deliberately swept, raked, or blown into the street, ditches, swales, drainage inlets, or receiving creeks, streams, or rivers constitute an illicit discharge into the Town's drainage system! Please bag, mulch/mow, or compost your leaves.

**Report Illicit Discharges** on the Town's website at <http://www.vintonva.gov/index.aspx?NID=209>. Click on “Illicit Discharge Reporting Form” and provide a specific location (address of nearest residence), description of discharge, and any other appropriate information.

**To learn more** about the harmful effects of illicit discharges on the area's receiving waters, see the Town's various public education videos, entitled *Illicit Discharge, Detection and Elimination - A Grate Concern*, on our website: <http://www.vintonva.gov/index.aspx?NID=396>.

### For questions contact:

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