



Leaf and Brush Collection Policy

September 2025

General Information

The City of New Buffalo collects leaves for city residents, which occurs in the spring and fall of each year as follows:

- **Spring collection (April and May)** – collection is on the second Monday of the month
- **Fall collection (October through December) – DAILY collection** starts the last week of October and continues through the second week of December (there will be no collection the week of Thanksgiving) *

** This is weather dependent and may end earlier; however, collection will not extend beyond the second week in December*

The exact timing is determined each year as the weather changes and leaves start to fall. We try to schedule leaf collection late enough in the season so that leaves will have fallen, but early enough to complete both pickups before winter weather settles in. This can be difficult to predict and, depending on the weather, may not be possible to complete the second pickup in all areas. If this should happen, residents can store their leaves until April, and they will be collected during the spring.

There are two scheduled pickups for each household. The Streets Department will work through leaf pickup in three (3) sections starting in the southwest portion of the city and moving counterclockwise through the city. (see Appendix A)

Brush Collection

Additionally, the city collects brush throughout the city. The collection is **April – October** and is on the **first Monday** of each month. Similar to leaf collection, the work starts in the southwest section of the city and moves counterclockwise around the city. The annual brush collection is for sticks, branches, and logs. Branch collection is for storm damage and minor yard cleanup.

When Are My Leaf Collection Weeks?

Every household in the city will have two scheduled collection weeks during the collection season. Residents should place leaves out the night before collection starts in your area. Leaves may not be collected first thing on Monday mornings as this will assist in making sure they are not missed.

Leaf Pickup Schedule

Area	First Pickup	Second Pickup
A	October 27 – November 1	November 17 – November 21
B	November 3 – November 7	December 1 – December 5
C	November 10 – November 14	December 8 – December 12

What's Accepted?

For brush collection, the following guidelines apply:

- Branches must be **shorter** than ten (10) feet long
- Branches must be **smaller** than six (6) inches in diameter
- Piles must be less than three (3) feet high and four (4) feet wide
- Owners and contractors are responsible for disposal of stumps and trees
- Any branches set out after crews have passed by will not be collected

For leaf collection, the following guidelines apply:

- Leaves
- Other similar, organic material

Please do not place any other material out for collection in the leaf program. It will not be collected, and material left at the curb will be considered a nuisance and may result in enforcement action without notice.

- Do not put leaves in the street
- Leaves shall be placed out in accordance with city schedule
- Leaves may be bagged or placed in a container with **only leaves** in them (leaves will be left that have any foreign material in them like sticks, landscaping, stumps, etc.)
- Failure to comply with established schedule shall result in enforcement actions
- Any leaves set out after crews have passed by will not be collected

Where Should I Place My Leaves and Branches

Please bring your leaves and brush to the tree lawn area near the curb on the street. Residents can rake their leaves to the curb in loose piles or collect them in biodegradable bags or boxes.

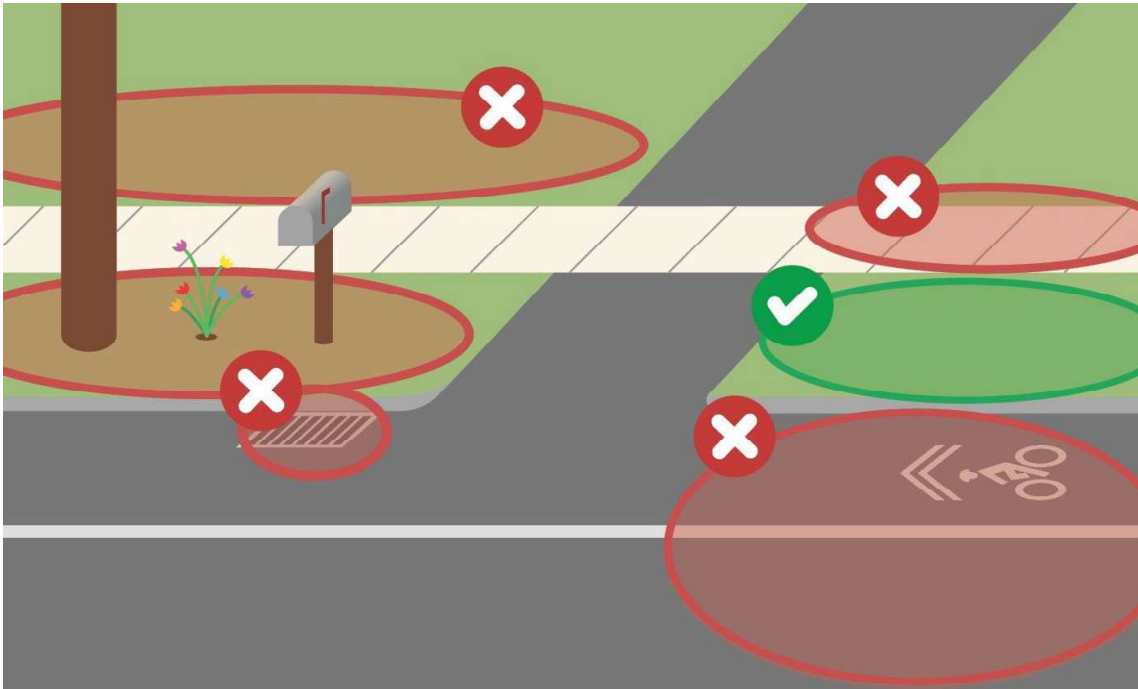
- Do not put leaves in the street
- Leaves shall be placed out in accordance with city schedule
- Leaves may be bagged or placed in a container with **only leaves** in them (leaves will be left that have any foreign material in them like sticks, landscaping, stumps, etc.)
- Failure to comply with established schedule shall result in enforcement actions
- Any leaves set out after crews have passed by will not be collected

At properties where there is no sidewalk or curb, please rake leaves to the edge of the street but do not block any traffic lanes (including bike lanes).

Please refrain from placing leaves and brush near mailboxes, utility poles, landscaped areas, or near storm drains. Do not place leaves or brush where it will block sidewalks, bike lanes, or vehicle lanes. Placing leaves or brush in these areas slows down the collection

and makes it difficult for people to travel in and around the city. Also, this could be dangerous and lead to enforcement action or fines.

Placement area for leaves and brush to be collected



Missed Pickups

Residents can report a missed pickup online or by calling (269)469-1500. Please do not report missed collections until the crews have made a complete pass in your area. This will make the collection process more effective and efficient.

Help Keep Storm Drains Clear

During the fall of the year, fallen leaves tend to accumulate near or on city storm drains. This prevents water from draining from the streets properly and can lead to flooding in those areas. If you see a blocked storm drain near your home, please lend a hand and clear the debris from the drain.

APPENDIX A

(MAP)

2025 Leaf Collection Schedule

Area	1st Pickup Starts	2nd (final) Pickup Start
A	October 27th - November 1st	November 17th through November 21st
B	November 3rd through November 7th	December 1st through December 5th
C	November 10th through November 14th	December 8th through December 12th

****Leaf collection does not apply to commercial and multifamily units.**

****Please have leaves to curb by 1st scheduled pickup date.**

