

## It's That Time of Year!

The brilliant orange, red, and mustard colors dazzled us for a few brief weeks, and now we face a daunting task: raking up all those leaves that cover the lawn! October in Rhode Island is usually a month in which you can still enjoy the outdoors without bundling up too much, so it's a perfect time to get those leaves off the ground! Just be mindful where you rake them!



It can be tempting to rake leaves to the street, assuming that they will wash away. Some people even take their leaves all the way to the nearest stormdrain. The bad news: stormdrains provide no filters and no treatment. So those leaves (like anything that enters a stormdrain) either wash directly into local waters or wind up clogging the stormdrain system, causing nuisance flooding. **And although leaves seem natural enough, large quantities don't belong in our rivers and streams.**

So, when you're raking this fall, please keep in mind:

- You can bag your leaves for Town recycling or create a compost pile on your property (but not in a wetland area).
- But never rake leaves or any lawn debris onto a paved surface or toward a stormdrain.

If you're interested in learning about additional tips to help safeguard our waters, visit:

<http://www.ristormwatersolutions.org>

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