WATER POLLUTION

Decaying leaves and grass are a source of water pollution when they end up in a storm drain or the street. As organic material breaks down, it adds excessive nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus to the water. This is good for your lawn, but bad for our water quality. Excessive nutrients can lead to unwanted and uncontrolled algae blooms, which are harmful to human health and your pets. The best way to manage this problem is to keep grass and leaves out of the streets!

Storm drain covered with leaves.
Being cleaned by homeowner.

Algal bloom from excessive nutrients in the stream.

CLOGGED STORM DRAINS

When leaves accumulate in our storm drains, they clump together and can clog the drain. A clogged storm drain can cause nuisance flooding. It takes time, money, and special equipment to clean out storm drains. This ultimately costs YOU more money.

Huntington Stormwater Utility
P.O. Box 7578
Huntington, WV 25777

(304) 781-1948

WHAT TO DO WITH LEAVES

HELP KEEP OUR CITY CLEAN BY PUTTING LEAVES IN RIGHT PLACE!

KEEP THE LEAVES

Keep leaves on your lawn or garden, mulch them, or compost them. **Be sure not to blow them into the street. Clogged storm drains can cause localized flooding.**

Composted leaves provide valuable organic matter when they are on your lawn or tilled back into the soil! They put nitrogen and other nutrients back into the soil. Leaf debris provides habitat for insects. But, we don't want leaf debris in our streets or storm drains.

Salamanders need leaf debris for habitat.

MULCH OR COMPOST LEAVES

Mowing or composting leaves recycles a natural resource, This keeps nutrients in your yard or garden.

BAGGED LEAVES

If you want to remove leaves from your property, you can bag them and set out with your trash. Huntington's Public Works Department will collect bagged leaves or grass. Tree branches and vegetative debris tied in bundles (48 inch x 18 inch diameter) will also be accepted. Call for special pick up at (304) 696-5540.

LANDSCAPING SERVICES

Do you use a landscaping service to remove leaves? If so, be sure the company is properly disposing of leaves. Careless lawn care companies will blow leaves into the streets where they can clog storm drains.

Clogged storm drains can cause localized flooding. Our crews have to make special trips to clean out storm drains.

According to Article 969.02 of the Codified Ordinances; it is unlawful to blow or sweep grass clippings, leaves, or any other yard waste into the street. It is also unlawful to place yard waste into our creeks and rivers.