YARD MATERIAL COLLECTION RULES

Materials that are accepted in yard material piles: tree and shrub prunings (branches must be less than 8” in diameter), leaves, and Christmas trees.

Unacceptable materials include: grass clippings, weeds, vines, sod, soil, flowerpots, florist’s wire, stumps, vegetables, fruit, pet waste, and branches more than 8” in diameter. See DavisRecycling.org for disposal options.

Yard material piles may not be set out more than 7 days before a scheduled pick-up day.

Additional rules include:
- Yard material piles may not be placed in any portion of a bike lane.
- Sweeping or blowing leaves or other yard debris into the street is not allowed unless the materials are placed in a yard material pile on the correct day.
- Yard materials must be loose (not in bags) and piles must be placed 18” from the curb or gutter.
- Yard material piles must be placed adjacent to the property they came from and may not be placed in front of a different property.
- Yard material piles cannot be larger than 5 feet in any direction and cannot block gutters, fire hydrants, driveways, storm drain inlets, or curb ramps for pedestrian and bike access.
- In some areas of town, yard material piles are not allowed as they will obstruct the bike lane or traffic lane. These areas include, but are not limited to: E 8th St. (from B St. to J St.), 5th St. (from A St. to L St.), B St. (from 7th St. to E 14th St.), Downtown Davis, and the Cannery. Properties in these areas that do not have access to on-street yard material pile collection do not pay for the service (they receive a credit on their utility bill).
- Streets are swept once a month, the week of the second Monday of the month.
MANAGING YARD TRIMMINGS

Here are some ways that residents can manage their yard materials.

1. “LEAF” IT ON SITE Instead of taking the time and energy to gather up your yard trimmings you can “leaf” them where they lie.
   • MULCH MOW Mulching lawn mowers chop grass clippings so finely that they fall in-between the blades of grass in your lawn and quickly decompose, recycling nutrients into your yard. You can even mulch mow leaves that fall onto your lawn.
   • LEAF MULCH Fallen leaves make an excellent and natural mulch for trees. When possible, leave your leaves where they fall and allow them to decompose, recycling nutrients back to the trees, creating a natural block for weeds, enriching the soil and preserving soil structure and moisture.
   • YARD TRIMMINGS AS MULCH Leaves, trimmings and lawn clippings make excellent mulch for bushes and small trees. Layer yard trimmings 4-6 inches thick under bushes and around the base of your trees.

2. BACKYARD COMPOSTING Start a backyard compost pile for your yard trimmings and create your own nutrient-rich compost! The City has many composting resources available on DavisRecycling.org, including booklets, web tutorials, and an online class! Davis residents in single-family homes can take the online composting class and receive a backyard composting bin for only $10.

3. USE THE CART All customers in Davis have access to an organics recycling cart that’s collected weekly along with trash and recycling. You’d be surprised how much can fit into one organics cart! Yard materials do not always nest well, so here are some tips on how to make the most out of the space in your organics cart.
   • CHOP IT Chop materials up into pieces 18” or shorter before placing them in your organics cart.
   • SQUISH IT When your cart seems full, tamp it down with a shovel, broom or rake to free up more space for materials.
   • DRY IT Yard materials can lose a lot of their mass as they dry, leaving more space in your organics cart. As materials dry, tamp them down again and stuff in more.
   • MULTIPLY IT Customers can get additional carts (fees apply). Residential organics carts are emptied once a week, offering a simple low-cost way to compost your yard trimmings. To request additional organics carts, residents can contact the City Finance Department (530-757-5651) and businesses can contact Recology Davis (530-756-4646).

4. SHARE THE SPACE If you have a one-time excess amount of yard trimmings, you can ask your neighbor if you can place some of your extra trimmings in their organics cart.

5. HAVE IT HAULED Ask a business to remove the yard trimmings materials for you.
   • RECOLOGY DAVIS Contact Recology Davis (756-4646) for details and pricing on a large drop box for yard debris—they drop off the box for you, then haul it away after you’ve filled it with yard trimmings. You can also contact Recology for a quote on an off-schedule pile pick-up. The quote will be based on the volume, size, and type of yard material.
   • LANDSCAPERS Contact a landscaping company for a quote to haul away excess yard materials.
   • TREE REMOVAL Contact a tree removal company to chip and/or haul away larger trimmings.

6. FEED THE ZOO Donate your yard trimmings to the Sacramento Zoo to feed the animals. See details on the Sacramento zoo website, SacZoo.org/Support/Other-Ways-To-Give.

7. RETHINK YOUR LANDSCAPE Consider upgrading your landscape to include low maintenance plants that don’t require a lot of pruning, cutting and trimming—saving you time and reducing the amount of yard trimmings you have to manage.