



HARMFUL EFFECTS AND ALTERNATIVES TO LEAF BURNING



As the fall approaches, the leaves will begin to turn brown, orange, yellow, red, gold colors. Looking at the leaves is a beautiful sight; however, they will fall from the trees, creating a cleanup problem for residents of St. Clair County. Burning leaves create heavy concentrations of toxic pollutants that are harmful to children, the elderly, asthmatics, healthy adults.....**EVERYONE**. The effects of leaf burning include:

- Increased hospital admissions for respiratory illnesses.
- Increased costs for trips to the doctor and medications for sensitive people.
- Increased mortality.
- Decreased visibility from intense leaf burning which increases the potential for auto accidents and death.
- Costs related to out-of-control fires such as personal injuries, property damage and cost for fire department.
- Personal injury and increased potential for injury to children.
- Airborne particles can aggravate the symptoms of those with respiratory problems.
- Those with chronic problems such as allergies and asthma are affected.
- 85% of the particles from leaf smoke are inhaled deep in the lungs which can cause adverse physical or chemical effects.
- Serious forest and grass fires may result from out-of-control leaf fires.
- The smoke from burning leaves affects more than just the yard or neighborhood where the burning occurs.
- Those experiencing respiratory problems have decreased mobility and cannot enjoy the fall season.
- Damage to streets can occur from piles of burning leaves.

Leaves can be properly cleaned up in an environmentally friendly way. Alternatives to leaf burning are listed below:



MULCH using a mulching lawn mower or spread out and mow over with a regular lawn mower.



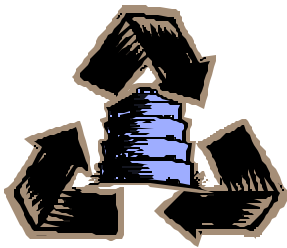
COMPOSTING reduces leaves in volume by 75%.



Put leaves out for **COLLECTION**. Call your city or trash hauler.



Give leaves to a farmer or gardener to fertilize their soil.



Take yard waste to a local landscape waste disposal site.