Giving Water A Way

Autumn is a beautiful season for the city of Boston. However, leaves that fall can collect on top of the city’s catch basins, also known as storm drains. These leaves, and other debris, can block rainwater from entering into the storm drain system, causing the potential for flooding throughout Boston’s streets and neighborhoods.

To prevent local flooding, Boston Water and Sewer Commission and the Department of Public Works perform year round maintenance to keep catch basins clean and free of debris, but there are ways Boston residents can help too.

All that's needed is a rake, shovel, broom and a receptacle.

How You Can Help

- Use gloves or other protective gear.
- Clear leaves and other debris from catch basins in your neighborhood or near your business.
- Put leaves and other yard debris in large paper bags or open barrels labeled “YARD WASTE”.
- Tie branches with string. Maximum branch size is 3 feet long, 1 inch diameter.
- Place barrels, bags and branches curbside by 7 AM on your neighborhood’s designated recycling day.

Please DO NOT use plastic bags, or put branches in barrels when disposing of your yard waste. Leaf and yard waste collection continues through the first week in December. If you have two trash collection days in the week, leaf and yard waste will only be collected on your recycling day. For more information, call the DPW at 617-635-4900, or visit their website at boston.gov/trash-day-schedule.

What We Can Achieve

- Reduce street flooding that impedes motorists, cyclists and pedestrians.
- Decrease the amount of debris entering the storm drain system.
- Minimize pollution of local waterways, like Boston Harbor and the Charles, Neponset, Muddy and Mystic Rivers.
Fixing Car Leaks Protects Our Waterways

Cars require different types of fluids. When cars have a leak, these fluids fall onto the road, wash into catch basins and end up polluting Boston Harbor and other local waterways. Let’s work together to protect Boston’s waterways.

1) Check your car for drips or leaks regularly. See or smell something unusual? Get it fixed!
2) Put a drip pan or waterproof cloth under your car if you have a leak or are doing engine work.
3) Treat motor oil and other automotive fluids as household hazardous waste. Dispose of them at the next Boston Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off (or Paint and Motor Oil Recycling Drop-Off) Day.

The next Hazardous Waste Drop-off Day:
Oct 7 from 9 AM - 2 PM
UMass Boston (Parking Lot)
100 Morrissey Blvd
Boston, MA 02125

South End & Roxbury
Residents of the South End and Roxbury are invited to use the BWSC Headquarters as their neighborhood site.

Come Meet Our Team!