

# Leaf Fall Pickup



Each autumn the City Transportation Unit is kept busy with leaves falling from the many trees that we have throughout the city.

The leaf fall period is typically spread over the months of April through to July, however heavy rainfall and high winds can speed up this process. During May our contractor can pick up over 90 tons of leaves and in June there can be an additional 40-60 tons collected, depending on the weather we experience.

While the leaves do not damage our transportation assets, they can cause blocked catchpits which result in flooding. The leaves can also cause the footpaths to become slippery.

Based on many years of experience, we have a good idea where the high levels of leaf fall will occur and regularly checking these streets during the autumn period.

Leaves are picked up off the road with a sweeper truck. Generally one pass of the truck will be able to pick up all of the leaves on the road, but this can be a slow process when the leaves are wet. During this process the truck will often have to dewater their load. Dewatering reduces the quantity of material that has to be disposed of, but does mean that the truck will have to leave the site to dispose of the surplus water. So, don't worry if you see the sweeper truck leave half way through a job — it will be back soon.

You can help us by moving your car off the road so that the sweeper truck can clean the street or by ringing the council if you see a blocked catchpit. We appreciate your assistance in keeping the footpath clear, and if you do pile up leaves on the grass verge we will pick these up too. Please do not include leaves from your own private property though.

For further information, or to arrange leaf pickup or road sweep please phone 07 838 6999 or email [cityinfrastructure@hcc.govt.nz](mailto:cityinfrastructure@hcc.govt.nz)