



STAFF PHOTO BY GARY L. WEST

Fall foliage may look colorful while on the trees, but becomes a seasonal chore when the leaves fall to the ground.

## There are right, and wrong, ways to dispose of leaves

East Oregonian

It's easy to pull out a rake when autumn leaves begin to fall, but it's less obvious where to put them once they've been collected.

Pendleton Public Works Superintendent Jeff Brown said the city prohibits citizens from sweeping their foliage into the gutter or streets because it mucks up the municipal storm drainage system.

While the city prefers residents throw their leafy debris into the trash can rather than burning it, Pendletonians aren't doomed to a fall full of trash cans swollen with dead leaves.

As in years past, Brown said the city is teaming up with Pendleton Sanitary Service to offer free leaf disposal at its 5500 N.W. Rieth Road facility every Saturday in November.

Hermiston Parks and Recreation Director Larry Fetter also discouraged Hermiston residents from throwing their yard waste into the streets.

"Our street sweeper isn't designed to collect all the leaves that accumulate," he said.

Although burning leaves creates less than ideal air quality conditions, Fetter



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Leaves falling from trees can also collect in rain gutters and cause problems if not cleared out before fall and winter precipitation arrives.

said people are well within their rights to burn them after the end of October.

If residents don't want to throw their fallen leaves in their own trash, Fetter suggested people take their green waste to the Stanfield Compost Yard off of Hoozier Road or to the Sanitary Disposal transfer station at 81144 U.S. Highway 395.

Both options are free of charge.

People living in rural Umatilla County outside of city limits may not have to worry about cluttering the gutters, but there are rules for burning leaves.

Anyone who's planning a burn has to buy a \$20 burn permit from the Umatilla County Planning Department first.

Before the burn commences, county residents are advised to call the county's burn line at 541-278-6397 to make sure burns are allowed that day.

Burns can only be ignited between 7:30 a.m. and two hours after sunset.

Other general requirements include having a water spray equipment on site and keeping the 10 feet surrounding a burn barrel clear of flammable material.



STAFF PHOTO BY GARY L. WEST

When roof tiles begin to curl, it is time to consider replacing your roof, or at least replace worn roof shingles.

StatePoint

**B**etween strong winds, heavy rains, and threats like fire and natural disaster, simply having a roof over one's head is not always enough.

When choosing a strong roof designed to protect your home and its occupants, here are some things to consider:

### Fire Prevention

Real wood shake roofs can be extremely combustible and serve as kindling for wildfires. If you live in an area with even a remote possibility of wildfires, consider investing in a roof that resists flame spread. While no roof will resist a "ground up" fire that engulfs the entire home, polymer roofing tiles that are installed with proper underlayments can help protect a home from wind-driven embers that can ignite the roof.

### Impact Resistance

Whether you live in an area prone to direct or indirect threats of tornadoes or hurricanes, or you simply live in a region that experiences strong storms, take note: flying debris associ-

ated with severe weather can become dangerous in high winds. Damage from airborne tree branches and flying loose items can be devastating to a roof not equipped for impact. Having a synthetic roof that has achieved the highest ratings on impact resistance tests can help protect your property.

"Even if your roof has stood up to strong weather conditions in the past, it's important to make sure it's still in shape before the next round of bad weather hits," says Mark Hansen, vice president of sales and marketing for DaVinci Roofscapes, which makes high-performing polymer roofing products that have achieved the highest grades possible on multiple industry tests.

Examine the roof yourself or have a professional roofer assess for damage you may not be able to see from the ground. They can make repairs or recommend a new roof replacement.

### Durability

No matter where you live, it's important that roof tiles can handle wear and tear. Ideally, roof tiles

should resist curling, fading, cracking, mold, algae, fungus and insects. Roofing products that come with a strong warranty can offer you peace of mind.

### Other Considerations

Protecting your home and family should be your number one consideration. Luckily, durable synthetic roofing options abound that offer the authentic look of real wood or slate beauty, as well as environmental sustainability. For the benefits of an eco-friendly roof, it's a good idea to seek out products that are completely recyclable and meet standards set by organizations like the Cool Roof Rating Council and the U.S. Green Building Council.

For a complete free guide on upgrading roofing to protect a home long-term, visit ThisOldHouse.netline.com.

For an important, lasting home project, evaluate your roof and consider making an upgrade that will protect your house from everyday wear and tear, as well as the worst case scenario.



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