

# LEAF REMOVAL TIPS

## Raking

- Raking up the leaves from your lawn, driveway and yard is an old-fashioned, tried-and-true method of leaf removal. The only drawback is that it is also one of the hardest and most labor-intensive methods. Try using a special time-saving rake that has an extra-wide raking surface with extra thin and extending prongs. Make sure to keep your back healthy by moving your feet around, instead of bending and stretching your back to reach awkward places. Avoid twisting and wrenching your torso by holding the rake in front of you and walking backward with it.

## Blowing

- Leaf blowers can be expensive, which is an immediate drawback to their use. Additionally, some leaf blowers require gas to operate, which can cost money and hurt the environment. These drawbacks should not put a leaf blower off your list of options, however. Electric blowers can work just as well and don't require gas to operate. For dry leaves, a blower can work wonders and even be fun to use. When the dry leaves are out of the way, though, wet, sticky leaves may require more power and elbow grease. One way to take care of your leaves without working too hard is to get all the ones you can out of the way with an electric blower, and get the stubborn ones with a leaf rake. Since leaf blowers are often quite loud, be sure to use yours at a time of day that won't bother your neighbors.

## Mulching

- Before you do all that raking and blowing, ask yourself if you need to be removing the leaves yet. If it's early autumn and your lawn grass is still growing, you don't actually need to rake yet. Just run your mower over your grass to mulch; leave the leaves on the ground or bag them. If it's later in autumn and you aren't mowing the grass anymore, raking can commence. Mulching mowers can be expensive, so try to buy one during spring or winter, when they are less in demand.