



## Hygiene Resources for Our City's Most Vulnerable

For many of us, access to water and basic hygiene is something we never really think about. We turn on our faucets, reach for the soap, and lather up. But for our people experiencing homelessness, access to hand washing and showering can be a real challenge that has become even more acute during the most unprecedented public health crisis of our time.

To meet the hygiene needs of our city's unhoused population during COVID-19, Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) has set up several hygiene stations in locations easily accessible to those living unsheltered. The stations, each of which include two or three portable toilets and one handwashing sink, supplement the nearly 200 other City of Seattle department-managed hygiene resources available throughout Seattle.

In addition, the Utility has set up three shower trailers – each containing three shower stalls, two toilets, and two sinks – at the Green Lake Community Center, King Street Station, and the Seattle Center, and partnered with Uplift Northwest (formerly the Millionair Club Charity) to manage them.

“Our staff and workers are happy to be partnering with SPU and to be supporting this community health effort for those experiencing homelessness,” says Chris Rylko, Interim Executive Director of Uplift Northwest. “The hygiene trailers provide a vital resource at a time when so many human services are hard to come by. The Uplift Northwest workers manning the trailer sites, some of whom may be experiencing homelessness themselves, are earning life-changing income and are grateful for the opportunity to help themselves while also helping their community.”

“I like working here,” said one Uplift Northwest staff member. “Helping coordinate showers at the hygiene trailers is the first job I’ve had since coming to Seattle, and I’ll be happy to stick around as long as people need these services.”



A team of SPU and Uplift Northwest staff pose with one of three shower trailers.

So far the shower trailers have proven to be quite popular—as of mid-October 2020 about 10,500 showers have been taken between the two trailers. Shower reservations can be made over the Hygiene Trailer Hotline at 206-386-1030.

Learn more and see a map of all available hygiene facilities across the city at [seattle.gov/humanservices/services-and-programs/addressing-homelessness](https://seattle.gov/humanservices/services-and-programs/addressing-homelessness).

## Help Shape Our Water



You have the power to shape how Seattle looks, feels and functions through Shape

Our Water, SPU's new community-centered project to plan the next 50 years of Seattle's drainage and wastewater systems.

Beyond keeping waterways clean and preventing flooding, our future drainage and wastewater systems can create many different community benefits, from greener neighborhoods to greater access to jobs and support for small businesses. Help us look beyond pumps and pipes to imagine the benefits these investments will bring into our everyday lives.

Visit [shapeourwater.org](https://shapeourwater.org) to learn more and get involved.

## Compost Your Tree for Free

Compost Christmas trees and holiday greens for free Dec. 26-Jan. 31!

Just place trees (cut into 4-foot lengths) or bundled greens next to your food and yard waste cart on your regular collection day. (Apartment residents may place two trees next to each food and yard waste cart.)

For details and more answers to your “where does it go?” questions, check out SPU's lookup tool at [seattle.gov/utilities/wheredoesitgo](https://seattle.gov/utilities/wheredoesitgo).



# How SPU Prepares for Storm Season (and what you can do to help)

Storm season in Seattle can bring challenges like flooding, frozen pipes, and icy roads. SPU works hard to prepare for these challenges before winter storms hit, so that when they do, the impacts to you and your community are minimal. Here are just a few of the ways we prepare for winter weather, and a few things you can do to help:

## Clearing Storm Drains



This time of year, storm drains can become overwhelmed with fallen leaves, ice, snow and other debris, resulting in flooding in neighborhoods across the city. As soon as the first leaves fall, SPU's Drainage and Wastewater crews start clearing drains with vactor trucks—basically giant vacuum trucks that suck up leaves and other debris, clearing the way for rain and melted snow.

### How you can help:



There are 33,000+ storm drains in Seattle—far more than our crews can keep clear on their own! You can help by raking leaves before they

end up in the street. Put raked leaves in your yard waste bin or use them as mulch.

## Planning for Icy Roads



The trucks that pick up garbage, recycling, and food/yard waste weigh around 30 tons. This means they can't safely navigate icy roads the same way our cars and SUVs can. SPU works closely with our contracted haulers to assess weather conditions and notify you as soon as possible if collection might be delayed in your neighborhood due to snow and ice.

### How you can help:

When it snows, keep an eye out for messaging about delayed collections on:

- SPU's Website: [seattle.gov/utilities](http://seattle.gov/utilities)
- Twitter: [@SeattleSPU](https://twitter.com/SeattleSPU)
- SPU's Blog: [atyourservice.seattle.gov](http://atyourservice.seattle.gov)
- Recycle It App: [seattle.gov/recycleit](http://seattle.gov/recycleit)
- AlertSeattle: [alert.seattle.gov](http://alert.seattle.gov)

We'll also communicate via local media and other local online platforms.

## Repairing Pipe Breaks



Freezing weather can cause water pipes to freeze and burst. This can lead to flooding, water outages, or even damage like this road washout that occurred during last year's storm. SPU's water crews are on standby during freezing weather to quickly repair broken water pipes and mains, ensuring your water continues to flow no matter the temperature.

### How you can help:



Protect your home from pipe breaks by disconnecting garden hoses, insulating outdoor pipes and spigots,

and insulating pipes in your crawl space, basement, or attic.

## Mark Your Calendars: Holiday Collection Schedule

Garbage, recycling, and food/yard waste are not collected on Thanksgiving, Christmas, or New Year's Day.

On those days, and for the remainder of the week, collection service will be delayed one day.

Collection Day	Moved To
November 26 (Thanksgiving)	November 27
November 27	November 28
December 25 (Christmas)	December 26
January 1 (New Year's Day)	January 2

For interpretation services please call 206-684-3000.  
如需口譯服務請電 206-684-3000。

통역 서비스를 원하시면 206-684-3000 번으로 전화해 주십시오.  
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Para servicios de traducción, por favor, llame al 206-684-3000.  
Para sa serbisyo ng tagapagpaliwanag, tumawag sa 206-684-3000.  
Muốn yêu cầu dịch vụ thông dịch xin gọi số 206-684-3000.

## Contact Us

### 24/7 Emergency Services

(e.g. street flooding, clogged storm drains, hydrant leaks)

- (206) 386-1800

### Report Problems

(e.g. graffiti, illegal dumping, needles)

- [www.seattle.gov/utilities](http://www.seattle.gov/utilities)
- [www.seattle.gov/finditfixitapp](http://www.seattle.gov/finditfixitapp)
- (206) 684-7587

### Customer Service

- [www.seattle.gov/utilities](http://www.seattle.gov/utilities)
- [www.seattle.gov/utilities/EmailUs](mailto:www.seattle.gov/utilities/EmailUs)
- (206) 684-3000 Mon-Fri, 7:30am-6pm

