



Information about your water, drainage, wastewater and solid waste utility services.

## Compost Food It's Not Garbage Anymore! New Requirements Start January 1

Every year, Seattle spends more than \$13 million dollars to send its trash to a landfill in eastern Oregon. More than one-third of that material is made up of table scraps, coffee grounds, banana peels, chicken bones, and other food waste.

It's not garbage anymore! Starting January 1, 2015, the City of Seattle will no longer allow food and compostable paper, including food-soiled cardboard, paper napkins and paper towels, in the garbage. After July 1, 2015 fines will be issued to businesses and residents whose garbage containers contain too much food or recyclables.

Today, more than 300,000 single-family, multi-family and commercial establishments participate in Seattle's food and yard waste program – diverting nearly 400,000 tons of food from the landfill through curbside food collection since 2005.

Call **206-684-3000** or go to [www.seattle.gov/util/foodwaste](http://www.seattle.gov/util/foodwaste) to learn more and receive tips and advice on how to get started composting today.



## Compost Your Holiday Greens

Seattle residents may compost trees and greens free of charge between December 26 and January 11, 2015.

### At the South Transfer Station

Trees should not exceed eight feet in length and must be free of decoration so they can be turned into compost for local parks and gardens. Trunks should not exceed four inches in diameter. The station will accept up to three trees per vehicle for free.

The South Transfer Station is located at 130 South Kenyon Street. For more information call **206-684-8400** or visit [www.seattle.gov/util/Dump](http://www.seattle.gov/util/Dump).

### At the Curb

Food and yard waste subscribers can put trees and greens out on their regular collection day. Cut trees into sections, six feet long or shorter, with branches trimmed to less than four feet to fit into the collection trucks. Bundle each section with sisal string or twine (not plastic). Decorated, flocked and plastic trees are not recyclable, and will be charged as extra garbage.

### At Apartments

Check with your manager. Multi-family buildings can put out one tree next to each food and yard waste cart per collection day at no extra charge.

## Holiday Household Hazardous Waste

There is usually some assembly required during the holiday season, and that sometimes involves batteries, CFL light bulbs and other household hazardous waste.

- Fluorescent bulbs and tubes, Ni-Cad and Lithium rechargeable and other batteries can be disposed of free of charge at Seattle's household hazardous waste stations.
- Incandescent light bulbs, regular Christmas lights and alkaline batteries, such as AA, AAA, C, and D can be disposed of in your curbside garbage.

For more information on where to dispose of household hazardous waste, including station locations and hours, visit [www.HazWasteHelp.org](http://www.HazWasteHelp.org) or call **206-296-4692**.



## Holiday Collection Schedule

If your regular collection day falls on or after Thanksgiving (Thursday, November 27), Christmas (Thursday, December 25), or New Year's Day (Thursday, January 1) your collection is one day later that week. To look up your collection day or report a missed collection, visit [www.seattle.gov/util](http://www.seattle.gov/util) or call **206-684-3000**.

### Snow/Ice Collections

During snowy or icy weather, go to [www.seattle.gov/util](http://www.seattle.gov/util) or check your local news to see if there are any delays in your collection. Follow us on social media and be the first to know about impacts to your service: [www.AtYourService.seattle.gov](http://www.AtYourService.seattle.gov)  
[www.twitter.com/SeattleSPU](https://twitter.com/SeattleSPU)  
[www.facebook.com/SeattlePublicUtilities](https://www.facebook.com/SeattlePublicUtilities)

## Get Ready for Winter!



Windstorms, heavy rains, snow and ice are a part of our Northwest holiday season. If you haven't already experienced one or more of these events, just wait, because there is still plenty of time. The Northwest storm season can extend into April.

By being prepared for power outages, heavy rains, ice and snow you can better ensure that you and your family will weather whatever Mother Nature throws our way. Make sure you take the following actions now before the next storm hits.

- Have blankets, flashlights, a battery-powered radio, extra batteries, sweaters, coats, gloves, hats and boots where you can quickly and easily get to them.
- Create a family emergency plan so all members know what to do and where to go should winter weather keep you from being together.
- Keep extra food and water – enough for 3 days minimum – and which needs little preparation to eat.
- Keep gasoline generators, barbecues and other dangerous cooking and heating elements away from your home to avoid carbon dioxide poisoning.
- Keep storm drains near your home clear of debris to avoid flooding and call **206-386-1800** to report floods.
- Stay out of a flooded basement – you could be electrocuted.
- Protect water pipes from freezing by wrapping with insulating material.

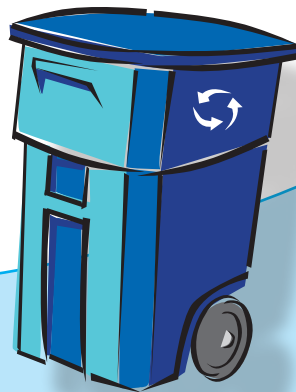
Visit [www.takewinterbystorm.org](http://www.takewinterbystorm.org) for more tips on how to prepare for winter storms.

## Keep the Chill Out!

Each winter, homes are damaged due to water pipes that freeze and burst. By taking a few simple precautions, you can help save yourself from the mess, money and headaches of burst frozen pipes.

### Before the Cold Hits

- Insulate pipes in your home's crawl spaces, basement and attic. Exposed pipes are more susceptible to freezing. The more insulation you use, the better the protection.
- Heat tape can be used to wrap pipes. Closely follow the manufacturer's installation and operation instructions.
- Seal leaks and close foundation vents to minimize cold air entering your house and freezing pipes. Open vents again in the spring to prevent dry rot.
- Drain and disconnect garden hoses and insulate hose bibs.
- Know where your water shut-off valve is located.



## Get Help with Your Bill

Do you know that you can get 50 percent off your Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) bill through the Utility Discount Program? Income-qualified homeowners and renters are eligible. For example, if you're a family of four making less than \$4,905 per month you may qualify. Program participants also get a 60 percent discount on their Seattle City Light bills, and may qualify for a further credit if they don't pay an SPU bill. Go to [www.seattle.gov/mybill](http://www.seattle.gov/mybill) to get started, or call **206-684-0268**.

Some residents of federally subsidized housing, including Section 8 are not eligible.

### Get a Free Water-Saving Toilet

Save even more on your utility bill. The same guidelines for our utility assistance program apply. To qualify for free toilets, homeowners must have properties located in Seattle and have existing toilets installed before 2004. Installation and recycling of your old toilets are also provided free of charge. For more information call **206-448-5751**, or go to [www.seattle.gov/util/freetoilets](http://www.seattle.gov/util/freetoilets).

## Stay Connected with Seattle Public Utilities



[www.atyourservice.seattle.gov](http://www.atyourservice.seattle.gov)



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