

# Bellevue Utilities News

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

General Information 425-452-6932  
Customer Service/Billing 425-452-6973  
Drinking Water Quality 425-452-6192  
Utilities Maintenance & 24 Hour Emergencies 425-452-7840  
(flooding/water main breaks/no water/sewer overflows/ pollutant spills)  
Email: [Utilities@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:Utilities@bellevuewa.gov)  
Web: [www.bellevuewa.gov/utilities.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/utilities.htm)  
Non-city phone numbers: Republic Services (solid waste service) 425-452-4762



September - October 2015

## Are You Prepared for Winter Storms?

Here are a few things you can do now to be ready:

- Clean gutters and downspouts twice a year.
- Build a family emergency kit. Keep enough water, food and other supplies (flashlights, crank or battery-operated radio, blankets) in your home to meet your needs for at least three days. Kits for winter car travel are also recommended.
- Have a family disaster plan.
- Check to see if your homeowner's insurance covers flood damage.
- Protect water pipes from freezing in exposed or unheated areas (attics, basements and garages) by wrapping with tape and insulating materials.

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



## Prevent Flooding Adopt a Drain

Don't let fall rainstorms flood your street. Help clear your local storm drain of leaves and other debris by adopting your local storm drain.

Every autumn Bellevue Utilities faces a big job keeping storm drains clear – there are over 19,000 of them around the city!

Remember to clear your drain only if it is safe. Stay out of the street and work from a sidewalk if possible. Put all leaves and compostable debris in your yard waste cart. Don't put grass clippings, leaves, or other debris into drains, ditches, creeks, culverts, gutters or ravines.

If a storm drain appears blocked below the street surface, call 425-452-7840.



## Most "Flushable" Products Are No Such Thing!

Flushing anything but toilet paper can cause massive sewage clogs – causing overflows that might damage property and hurt the environment, including our lakes and streams. Don't believe those ads promoting so-called "flushable" products that can supposedly be safely disposed of in your toilet.

Bellevue Utilities' 36 pump stations are in constant operation – pumping our wastewater to the treatment plant. Despite their steady pumping, the stations require continual maintenance to free them of paper towels, tissues, wet wipes, and other products that should have been put in the trash.

Pump stations throughout the city are located in public spaces, shopping centers, and residential areas – and when not treated kindly pose a threat. So please do not flush paper towels, facial tissue, cotton swabs, personal and baby wipes, hair, dental floss, feminine hygiene products, or cat litter.

## Sewer Charges and Your Utility Bill

Did you know residential sewer charges are not based on your water consumption during warmer months? This takes into account that a lot of water used during the summer is not going down the drain but being used in your yard. Instead, your sewer bill is based on your average water use during the previous year during the cooler months of October through April.



## Free Water-saving Items Just a Click Away

Bellevue Utilities wants to help you save water. By installing high efficiency fixtures and practicing wise water use, you can reduce your water consumption, lower your utility bills and help ensure a reliable water supply for future generations.

Bellevue is a member of the Cascade Water Alliance, through which customers can get free conservation items – paying only shipping and handling.

A sample order for a little over \$5 could include all of these items:

- Low-flow Showerhead: reduce gallons per minute energy demand from your water heater.
- Dye Tablets/Strips: stop water waste from silent toilet leaks.
- Digital Shower Timer: attaches to the wall with a suction cup.
- Kitchen Faucet Aerator: has a 360 degree swivel capability plus reduces water flow.
- Bathroom Faucet Aerator: reduce water flow but not the performance.

Single-family home residents can order items online. Go to [www.cascadewater.org/free-items.php](http://www.cascadewater.org/free-items.php). All you need is your account number or customer number from your utility bill. Free items are also available for apartment condo owners and managers.





## Have a Waste Free Holiday Season

Being green is easy at the EverGreen Gift Market, a city-sponsored event on November 21 at Highland Middle School (15027 NE BelRed Road), where vendors will sell handmade, local, repurposed and sustainably-sourced goods. The EverGreen Gift Market, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., is a free, family-friendly event. Discover new tastes, sights and smells, and browse some wonderful goods and crafts.



## Fall Recycling Event October 17

Now's the time to declutter before winter comes! Everything you drop off will be recycled at Bellevue's Annual Fall Recycling Event, Saturday, October 17, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

**Where:** Bellevue Presbyterian Church, 1717 Bellevue Way NE, Bellevue, WA 98004-2853

**What's accepted:** If you haven't been able to find a second life for the following items, please make sure they are safely secured when you are transporting them to the event with tarps, rope, straps, netting or other means. Only cars, passenger vans and pickups are allowed to drop off items. No flatbed or dump trucks are allowed. We reserve the right to refuse oversized, commercial or contaminated loads.

- Appliances and scrap metal (\$15 cash only fee for refrigerators and freezers, and \$5 fee for water heaters with insulation coating)
- Batteries (car, truck, marine and motorcycle)
- Cardboard
- Child car seats
- Clean scrap wood (untreated and unpainted)
- Clothing and reusable household goods for donation (no furniture)
- Electronic equipment
- Mattresses and box springs (\$10 cash only fee per item)
- Porcelain toilets and sinks (\$10 cash only fee per item)
- Propane tanks (\$5 cash only fee for residential tanks only)
- Rigid plastics (such as buckets, children's toys, coolers, laundry baskets, plastic lawn furniture, PVC pipes, and sports bottles)
- Secure shredding of confidential materials (limit 5 file-sized boxes no larger than 15 inches long, 10 inches wide, and 12 inches high)
- Styrofoam blocks and packing peanuts (white blocks and packing peanuts of any color).
- Tires (limit six, cash only fees for the following: \$1.50 for each tire on a rim, \$5 for each large truck tire, and \$15 for each truck tire on a rim.)

Watch your mail this fall for a complete brochure of accepted materials, fees, and other important information.

## Properly Winterizing Your Irrigation System

During the fall most irrigation systems will need to be winterized to prevent pipes from freezing and breaking. Many times this involves using compressed air to "blow out" the excess water left in the irrigation piping. Although this is the best method, backflow of compressed air and contaminants may enter the drinking water distribution system and cause damage and/or health risks if not performed properly.

Please visit [www.bellevuewa.gov/backflow.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/backflow.htm), or email us at [backflow@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:backflow@bellevuewa.gov) for more information on irrigation systems and backflow.



## Correction: ✓

A bill insert advertising the City of Bellevue's new False Alarm Reduction Program provided an incorrect web address. The correct website to register your monitored security alarm system is [www.crywolfservices.com/bellevuewa](http://www.crywolfservices.com/bellevuewa). We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused. Residents and businesses are now required to register any monitored security alarm systems within the City of Bellevue as part of the program. The program goal is to reduce the number of false alarms, which are costly and dangerous because they divert police officers from proactive crime prevention efforts and can divert public safety resources from true emergency calls.



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