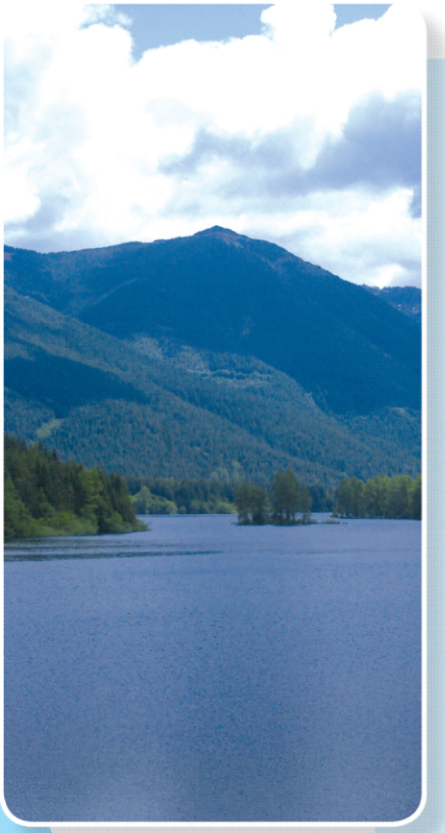
Bellevue Utilities News

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**
Web: **www.bellevuewa.gov/utilities.htm**
Non-city phone numbers: Republic Services (solid waste service) **425-452-4762**

March - April 2016



Why Is Bellevue Water So Good?

Bellevue's water comes from the Cedar River and Tolt River watersheds in the Cascade Mountains – protected areas that are closed to human activity and development. This means our water has fewer contaminants and is treated with fewer chemicals.

The following are ways that Bellevue keeps your water safe:

- Monitor drinking water quality throughout the city to make sure it meets or exceeds state and federal water quality standards.
- Manage the Cross Connection Control/Backflow Prevention Program to prevent contaminants from entering the city's water system.
  Visit **www.bellevuewa.gov/backflow.htm** to learn more.
- Establish procedures used during water main breaks and other event responses to protect drinking water quality.
- Conduct water main flushing, sampling and results tracking to ensure freshness.
- Inspect water storage tanks to ensure they have secure and sanitary conditions as well as oversee storage tank cleaning to remove any accumulated sediments.
- Assist customers with water quality issues in their homes.
- Keep abreast of changing state and federal regulations.
- Maintain strong relationships with Washington State's Department of Health – Office of Drinking Water.
- Train for water emergencies with other regional water providers.

This means you don't have to turn to expensive bottled water to get great quality, taste, and value. Learn more at **www.bellevuewa.gov/drinking-waterquality.htm**.

Keeps Suds Out of Streams

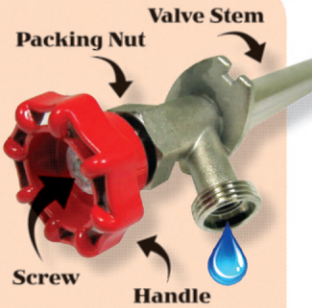
Did you know that all storm drains in Bellevue lead to a lake, stream, or creek?

Washing your car at home is a dirty business. When you wash your car in the street or a parking lot, toxic motor oil, brake pad dust, tire wear and other chemical residues – along with soap – go down storm drains, untreated, into the waterways we swim, fish and play in.

Dirty wash water contains oil, solvents, anti-freeze and toxic heavy metals such as zinc, lead, and copper. Soap is a significant problem and is harmful to fish and the insects they eat. Even biodegradable soap can kill fish before it degrades.

Instead, take your car to a commercial car wash that reclaims the wash water several times before sending it to the sewer system for treatment.

Fix a Leaky Outdoor Faucet



Leaks in outdoor faucets usually occur in two places – the handle and the spout. To fix a leak coming from the handle, try tightening the nut behind the handle with a wrench. If that fails to stop the leak, or if the leak is coming from the spout, you'll have to take the faucet apart.

Follow these steps:

1. Start by turning off the water supply at your shutoff valve and unscrewing the screw that holds the handle in place.
2. Behind the handle, you'll find a packing nut. Using a wrench, turn the nut counterclockwise and slide out the valve assembly.
3. Older valve stem assemblies have two washers – one behind the packing nut and one at the base of the assembly. If the washer behind the packing nut is worn, use a wrench to loosen the nut and take out the washer. Take the old washer to a plumbing supply store to make sure you're replacing it with the right one.
4. To replace a worn washer at the base of the valve stem, unscrew the screw that holds the washer in place, remove the worn washer, and replace it with a new, matching one.

Leaks in long frost-free valve stems are more difficult to fix, especially if the leak is inside your wall or if your valve stem is soldered onto your supply line. If you have this type of valve stem, consult a plumbing supply store for advice.

Four Reasons to Go Paperless

Are you still getting a paper bill? There are many reasons to go paperless.

More Secure: Using paper bills, checks, and mail to pay your account leave you vulnerable because they contain sensitive information. Last year over 9.9 million Americans were victims of identity theft, according to the U.S. Postal Service.

Greener: By going paperless you're saving trees, as well as other valuable resources that go into paper production.

Save Money: The price of postage is always increasing. Save by paying online.

Save Time: Think about all the steps involved with paying bills – opening and sorting, writing checks, filling out payment forms and return envelopes, and finally safely disposing of bills with a shredder.

Get started today by visiting **http://myutilitybill.bellevuewa.gov**. Have your customer and account numbers handy to complete the registration process.

www.facebook.com/bellevuewashington

www.youtube.com/BellevueWashington

www.twitter.com/bellevuewa

Volunteer in Bellevue's Waterwise Garden

Splendid gardens don't need large amounts of water or garden chemicals that can harm children, pets and Puget Sound. Bellevue Botanical Garden's award-winning Waterwise Garden demonstrates natural gardening that's healthier for families and local ecosystems.

Adult volunteers are needed to help care for the garden. Learn new practices and discover plantings that conserve water, lower chemical use, reduce runoff, recycle waste and preserve habitat – all without sacrificing an ounce of beauty. Join the Waterwise Garden volunteer team and:

- Learn natural gardening techniques that can easily be applied to your home garden.
- Get hands-on experience soil building, composting and caring for a variety of plants during the growing season.
- Meet new people and build friendships by sharing similar interests.
- Have fun while achieving important resource conservation goals in the community.

Volunteer days are the first and third Wednesday of each month, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., from spring to fall. No experience is needed. For more information, send an email to **pburgess@bellevuewa.gov** or call **425-452-4127**.

More Options to Recycle

There are more options for Bellevue residents to recycle and keep items out of the landfill. The following items can be dropped off at Republic Services In-City Recycling Drop-Off Center at 1600 127th Avenue NE:

- Bicycles and bike parts
- Child car seats
- Fluorescent tubes and bulbs: wrap in newspaper, secure with tape, and mark "fluorescent tubes" (limit 2 per collection and 10 per year; tubes no longer than four feet)
- Hardcover books
- Household batteries: place rechargeable and non-rechargeable batteries in separate clear, sealed bags
- Rigid plastics: examples include 5-gallon buckets, PVC pipe, laundry baskets, plastic lawn furniture, and coolers
- Small appliances: no larger than two square feet and less than 60 pounds. Examples include: microwave ovens, toaster ovens, and irons
- Small electronics: no larger than two square feet and less than 60 pounds. Examples include: computer equipment, TVs, and cell phones
- Small propane cylinders: must be empty
- Styrofoam blocks
- Used cooking oil: should be relatively clean and not contain any large solids, and placed in clean, clear, screw-top plastic jugs with name and address

Please consider donating any reusable items before throwing them away. For more information, contact Republic Services at **www.RepublicBellevue.com** or at **425-452-4762**.

Bellevue Utilities News is available online and in other languages at www.bellevuewa.gov/utilities.htm.
可在以下网站用中文查看《贝尔维尤市公用事业新闻》（Bellevue Utilities News）：www.bellevuewa.gov/utilities.htm。
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