Bellevue Utilities News

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

May - June 2016

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**

Safe Spring Cleaning Tips

Out with the old and in with the less toxic!

Give your house a fresh start with a good spring cleaning. Dig into those dark places and you'll likely find some hazardous things; stuff like bug sprays, automotive products, lawn and garden chemicals, drain and oven cleaners, paint strippers, and home maintenance products.

How can you tell the hazardous stuff?

Hazardous products say **CAUTION**, **WARNING**, **DANGER**, or **POISON** on the label and cannot go in the trash. Take them to the Factoria Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Site at 13800 SE 32nd Street. It's open Tuesday to Friday, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.; and Saturday and Sunday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m, except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. No appointment is needed. There is no fee for hazardous waste disposal. Call **1-888-TOXIC-ED** or visit **www.hazwastehelp.org** for more detailed information on what you can and can't drop off.

Kids and chemicals don't mix!

Children can confuse household products with food. Kids don't read labels, and some containers and labels look fun and food-like. Reduce your stash of products and use safer alternatives as an easy way to make your home safer for kids.

Visit **www.bellevuewa.gov/household_hazardous_waste.htm** for a list of green cleaning recipes you can make at home.

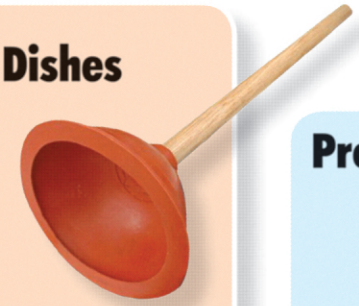
Ask Questions Before Letting People in Your House

On occasion, Bellevue Utilities employees will visit a private residence to post notices and verify or correct a problem. It is rare for a utilities employee to come to a home without an appointment. Customers can expect that if we come to your door we will:

- Show you our City of Bellevue-issued photo ID card.
- Encourage you to phone Bellevue Utilities, at **425-452-7840**, to verify who we are.
- Only enter your home with your permission.
- Never ask you to pay the person at the door with cash or check for utility charges.
- Not solicit work, such as plumbing on your property, that Bellevue Utilities does not typically provide.

If anyone approaches you and states they are a Bellevue Utilities or water department employee and does not abide by the guidelines above or makes you uncomfortable, don't let them in — call 911!

Change the Way You Wash Dishes and Avoid Sewer Backups



Fats, oil and grease (or FOG) from food preparation and cleanup can result in a sewage backup into your home.

Why is FOG a problem?

Everyday washing of plates, pot, pans and cooking equipment sends FOG down the drain. Over time it can build up in your private side sewer and can block it, resulting in a sewage backup. The side sewer is the section of pipe that carries wastewater from your home or building's plumbing system to the public sewer main.

Trashing FOG and Composting Help

- Pour fats, oils and grease into a disposable container, such as a jar or can. Put it in the freezer and throw it in the trash after the FOG has hardened.
- Use paper towels or napkins from meals to wipe greasy dishes before washing. Put them in your food and yard waste cart.
- Use sink strainers to catch food waste when washing and put any scraps in your food and yard waste cart.
- Recycling any unwanted leftovers in your food and yard waste cart instead of using garbage disposals reduces unwanted FOG.

Protect Our Waters: Practice Natural Yard Care

Did you know that all storm drains in Bellevue lead to a lake, stream, or wetland? When you practice natural yard care, you're helping to protect fish and other wildlife.

Here are two tips:

1. Build healthy soil with compost and mulch: your garden and lawn will require less watering, which can mean more money in your pocket. You'll also use less fertilizer, which can be harmful when runoff carries it into local waterways.
2. Avoid using pesticides: they're dangerous and the solution can be as simple as choosing more pest-resistant plants.

Create a yard that is safer for your family, pets and the natural environment. For inspiration, visit our Waterwise Garden at the Bellevue Botanical Garden. Learn more about the garden and natural yard care at **www.bellevuewa.gov/naturalyardcare.htm**.

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 $6 could include all of these items:

- Low-flow Showerhead: reduce gallons per minute and 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.

Go to **www.cascadewater.org/free-items.php** to place orders. Homeowners only need an account or customer number from their utility bill. Free items are also available to apartment condo owners and managers.

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What's Accepted – Recycling Questions

Here are answers to some frequently asked questions about recycling.

Aluminum foil and pie pans: Clean aluminum foil and food pans can be placed in your recycling cart. Reuse foil whenever possible.

Caps and lids: Lids and caps larger than three inches in diameter can be recycled. Lids on cans can be left hooked to the can and pushed down inside. Plastic caps and lids smaller than three inches in diameter go in the garbage.

Computers, small appliances, and electronics: Single-family residents can request a home pickup for items less than 60 pounds and no larger than two square feet by calling Republic Services at **425-452-4762**.

Packing materials: Styrofoam "peanuts" and Styrofoam blocks go in the garbage and cannot go in your recycling cart. Blocks, however, can be recycled at Republic Services' In-City Recycling Drop-off Center at 1600 127th Avenue NE for free. Their hours are Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.; and Saturday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Some shipping companies will aslo reuse donated packing peanuts.

Plant pots: Clean plant pots go in your recycling cart.

Plastic food bags: Produce bags, bread bags, frozen food and Ziploc pouches go in the garbage. They often contain food residue and moisture that contaminate the rest of the plastic material.

Plastic shopping, newspaper and dry cleaning bags: They can be placed in your recycling cart. Stuff into one bag and tie shut for recycling. An alternative is to avoid the need for plastic shopping bags by taking your own bags to the store.

Prescription containers: Empty prescription medicine containers go in the garbage. The plastic is too brittle to be re-manufactured into products.

Shredded paper: Put it in a clear plastic bag, tie off, and place in your recycling cart. As an alternative, it can be layered in food and yard waste carts with organics.

Everyone Can Recycle Organics!

Whether you live in a home, condo, apartment, or have a business – you can participate!

When you keep food waste and compostable paper out of the garbage, you are saving a valuable resource. Instead of sending it to the landfill where it will stay forever, this raw material becomes rich, nutrient-filled compost that will help feed gardens around Bellevue. Compost also helps reduce water use because it slows runoff from sprinklers and rain.

Single-family residents: Put food scraps and compostable paper (napkins, paper towels and pizza boxes) in your 96-gallon yard debris cart. If you are concerned about possible messes, use compostable or paper bags to store and dispose of food scraps or put newspaper on the bottom of your cart. Call Republic Services at **425-452-4762** for your free kitchen food waste container.

Multifamily residents and businesses: You too can recycle organics. Get two free 96-gallon organics carts on weekly service for every garbage container at your property at no additional charge. Diverting more waste out of the garbage may result in needing fewer or smaller garbage containers, which will save money. Call Republic Services at **425-646-2492** to set up service and take advantage of many tools and resources available.

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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