



Plastic Bags and Plastic Wrap No Longer Allowed in the Recycling

Beginning January 1, 2020, plastic bags and plastic wrap will no longer be accepted in curbside recycling bins. Check out the Q&A below for details:

Q: Why are plastic bags and plastic wrap no longer allowed in the recycling bin?

A: Plastic bags and plastic wrap are the most problematic materials for recycling processors. When thin plastics, like bags and wrap, get tangled in recycling equipment, the processing facility has to shut down. Stopping the equipment to remove the plastic slows processing down, drives up costs, and is a potential safety risk for workers.



Some bags get so tangled up in the recycling machinery, it takes a power tool to cut them loose!

Q: How should I dispose of plastic bags and plastic wrap?

A: You have a couple of options:

- 1) Take them to a drop-off location to be recycled (as long as they're clean and dry). To find a drop-off location near you, go to www.plasticfilmrecycling.org.
- 2) Put them in the garbage.

Q: What exactly do you mean by plastic bags and wrap?

A: Plastic bags include grocery bags, produce bags, bread bags, and zip-top sandwich bags, along with shipping pillows and bubble wrap. Plastic wrap is typically used as packaging for items like paper towels or toilet paper, as well as lightweight dry cleaning bags and most other thin, flexible plastic.



To learn more about the new standards for recycling, including keeping plastic bags and wrap out of the recycling cart, go to www.seattle.gov/utilities/recycleright.

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.

Wixii adeegyada turjubaanka fadlan wac 206-684-3000.

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.

Winter Collection Schedules

Holiday Collections

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, service will be delayed one day.

Pick-up Day	Moved To
Nov. 28	Nov. 29
Nov. 29	Nov. 30
Dec. 25	Dec. 26
Dec. 26	Dec. 27
Dec. 27	Dec. 28
Jan. 1	Jan. 2
Jan. 2	Jan. 3
Jan. 3	Jan. 4

Snow/Ice Collection Delays

During the winter season, icy roads may prevent SPU's contracted haulers from collecting garbage, recycling, or food/yard waste. Collection trucks can weigh up to 30 tons and cannot safely navigate icy streets the same way our cars can.

In the case of severe weather, there are several places to go to find out whether your collection has been postponed:

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

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



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. We work 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 easily 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 over 33,000 storm drains in Seattle—far more than our crews can keep clear on their own! You can help keep them clear by raking your leaves and putting them in the yard waste bin or using them as mulch. Use a rake and dustpan or shovel to safely clear leaves from your local storm drain.

Planning for Icy Roads



The trucks that pick up Seattle's 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.



@SeattleSPU



SeattlePublicUtilities



Seattle.gov/utilities

How you can help:

When it snows, keep an eye on SPU's website and social media accounts for the latest updates on solid waste collection or download the *Recycle It* app by going to seattle.gov/RecycleIt.

Responding to 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 (*see photo, left*) 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, attic, or basement.

Storm-Ready Tips for our City of Seattle Partners

From Seattle Department of Transportation:

Make sure you have a shovel ready—it's your legal responsibility to clear the sidewalks in front of your building so everyone can get around safely.

From Seattle City Light:

In the event of a power outage, never use generators and/or barbecues indoors; keep them outside and away from windows.

For more storm-ready tips, go to takewinterbystorm.org.

Have You Signed Up for AlertSeattle?

From severe weather to major traffic disruptions, it's important to stay informed. Sign up now to receive free notifications from AlertSeattle, the official emergency notification system used by the City of Seattle. Sign up at Alert.Seattle.gov.

ALERT  **SEATTLE**

EMERGENCY ALERTS AND NOTIFICATIONS

