

## SAVE ON TOOLS TO MAKE COMPOSTING YOUR FOOD WASTE EVEN EASIER



Sale on BioBags and Kitchen Scrap Containers at Bartell Drugs ends September 30th.

**SAVE 20% OR MORE NOW!**

Food scraps and food soiled paper are no longer allowed in the garbage in Seattle. Bartell Drugs has all the tools that you need to make composting your food waste easier—and they are on sale now!

During the month of September, Bartell Drugs, BioBag, King County and Seattle Public Utilities are bringing you huge savings on kitchen scrap containers and compostable bags at a Bartell Drugs near you.

Learn more and find a retailer near you at [www.recyclefood.com](http://www.recyclefood.com).

**Compost More.**

**Waste Less.**

Compostable bags and kitchen scrap containers make food recycling clean & easy. Get discounts during the month of September.

Brought to you by:



## Tips for Easy Food Waste Composting

- Keep it clean:** Use a washable container with a lid to collect food waste in your kitchen.
- Line container with a paper bag, compostable bag, or newspaper. No plastic bags!**
- Take it out:** Take your food waste to the cart as often as possible. This will prevent odors and mess.
- Store food waste in the refrigerator or freezer until collection day to prevent odors.**

For more tips, visit: [www.seattle.gov/util/foodwaste](http://www.seattle.gov/util/foodwaste) or call (206) 684-3000.

Seattle Public Utilities

700 5th Avenue, Suite 4900  
PO Box 34018  
Seattle, WA 98124-4018

For interpretation services please call 206-684-3000.

如需要口譯服務，請撥電話號碼206-684-3000。

통역 서비스를 원하시면 206-684-3000으로 전화하세요.

Wixii turjubaan afka ah ku saabsan, Fadlan la soo xariir taleefoonka: 206-684-3000.

Para servicios de interpretación por favor llame al 206-684-3000.

Para sa serbisyo ng tagapagpaliwanag, tumawag sa 206-684-3000.

Về dịch vụ phiên dịch xin gọi 206-684-3000.

**COMPOST SO LIFE GOES ON.**



Food waste is not allowed in the garbage.

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

**Food waste is not allowed in the garbage. Look inside for more information.**

No se permiten residuos de alimentos en la basura. Para obtener más información, mire en el interior.

垃圾中不允許有廚餘。  
查看內頁以瞭解更多資訊。

Không được phép cho rác thực phẩm vào thùng rác. Xem nội dung bên trong để biết thêm thông tin.

Qashinka cuntada ah lama oggola inuu kuj iro xashiishka. Gudaha ka fiiri macluumaad dheeraad ah.

Basura sa pagkain ay hindi pinapayagan sa basurahan. Tingnan ang loob para sa higit pang impormasyon.

垃圾中不允許有食物殘渣。  
查看內頁以了解更多信息。

음식 쓰레기는 쓰레기로 배출해서는 안 됩니다. 자세한 내용은 내부 정보를 확인하십시오.

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SEATTLE, WA  
PERMIT NO. 6000

Tips and Programs for Seattle Residents

Fall 2015

Seattle Public Utilities



**COMPOST SO LIFE GOES ON.**

Whether you live in a house, apartment, condo or townhouse, you can compost your food waste. Every house and apartment complex is required to have food waste composting. Take your food waste from the kitchen to the cart to compost so life goes on. When you put your food waste in the green food and yard waste cart, you give it a new beginning as nutrient-rich compost for yards and gardens. It's up to you!

**Food waste is not allowed in the garbage.**

Alot of different things can go in your food and yard waste cart. Vegetable scraps, leftovers, paper towels, greasy pizza boxes and even bones are all compostable.



**ARE YOU A PROPERTY MANAGER?**

Free resources are available to help businesses, apartments and condos comply with the food waste and recycling requirements.

**FOOD WASTE IS NOT GARBAGE**

**\$100 Apartments/Condos:** You can qualify for a one-time \$100 utility bill credit, training and educational materials.

Sign up and learn more at: [www.seattle.gov/util/apartmentfoodwaste](http://www.seattle.gov/util/apartmentfoodwaste) or call (206) 684-8717



# Broken Records!

Have you broken anything lately? Seattle has: heat records! Seattle has been hotter and drier than normal, and more warm days may be coming. With warm weather comes the need to conserve water. Not just for drinking, but for healthy fish habitat too! Now is the time of year when salmon return and need higher river and stream flows to successfully spawn. Here are some tips to help you use water wisely on your landscape:

**STOP WATERING.** As temperatures become cooler and the days shorter, plants enter the initial phase of dormancy when no water is needed. Turn off your automatic irrigation controller. Fix leaky sprinkler heads and broken nozzles. Prepare your irrigation system for winter.

**WEED AND MULCH.** After your fall clean-up and weeding, add a 2–3 inch layer of mulch to the soil surface. Arborist wood chips work best around woody plants and trees, while fall leaves or compost should go around perennials. Mulch helps protect plant roots during freezing weather. Mulch also helps reduce water evaporation, blocks weeds, prevents erosion by winter rains and feeds the soil.

**WATER YOUNG TREES EFFICIENTLY.** If the rains haven't returned yet, water young trees efficiently using a water bag. Trees planted 5 or less years ago need 15-20 gallons of water twice a week to survive.

**QUESTIONS?** Contact the Garden Hotline for free answers to your gardening questions! **(206) 633-0224** or [www.gardenhotline.org](http://www.gardenhotline.org). Visit [www.savingwater.org](http://www.savingwater.org) for more watering tips and lots of information about environmentally friendly lawn and garden care.

### How to Winterize Your Automatic Irrigation System

- Turn off the water supply to the irrigation system.
- Turn the controller dial to the "Off" setting.
- Insulate any above ground pipes, backflow prevention devices, and hose bibs.
- Open each valve to release water pressure inside the pipe.
- Be sure to drain any water that might freeze out of the irrigation system.
- Remove any cup or bowl from rain sensor, and cover the sensor.



### I compost a lot of food that goes bad before I can eat it. What can I do to waste less food?

In a recent study, Seattle households estimated that about 1/3 of all food scraps they throw out could have been avoided. This includes foods that went bad before being eaten, and leftovers no one wanted to eat. Don't worry. There are simple things you can do to prevent food from going to waste.

**SHOP SMART:** Plan meals. Make a list and only buy what is needed for the meals you planned.

**STORE FOOD BETTER:** Fruits and vegetables last longer when stored properly. Use a food storage guide. Get a food storage guide at [www.seattle.gov/util/ReduceReuse](http://www.seattle.gov/util/ReduceReuse).

### How can I make choosing reusable over disposable easier?

The appeal of disposable items is convenience. Find ways to make reusable items just as convenient so it's easy to make the shift.

**START SMALL:** Start with small things you use often. Keep reusable bags, coffee cups and containers in your car, purse, and anywhere you'll remember to take them with you when you shop.

**THINK BIG:** Consider choosing a reusable option for items that generate the most garbage — like diapers. Choosing cloth diapers can reduce a large quantity of garbage! You can wash cloth diapers at home or Search for "diaper service Seattle" to find a local service.



### Got burned-out lights?

Recycle them at no charge  
Individuals and businesses can drop off up to ten lights per day at over 30 locations in the Seattle area, and more than 200 locations throughout Washington State.

### Where can I drop off my lights?

Visit [www.LightRecycle.org](http://www.LightRecycle.org) to find a collection site near you.

### What types of lights are accepted?

Take Fluorescent Light Tubes (straight or curved) Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFLs) and High Intensity Discharge Lights (HIDs).

### How do I transport them?

Store and transport CFLs and fluorescent lights in containers such as original packaging that help keep them from breaking.

### Why recycle?

Washington State law makes it illegal to throw mercury-containing lights in the garbage. Although a single fluorescent light contains a very small amount of mercury, millions of these lights are sold every year in our state. Recycling mercury-containing lights protects the environment and human health by reducing the release of mercury, a potent neurotoxin.

Visit [www.HazWasteHelp.org](http://www.HazWasteHelp.org) for more information, or call the Hazards Line at **(206) 296-4692**.

## Two Toilet Programs to Save \$\$ + Water

### \$75 REBATES FOR REMIUM WATERSENSE TOILETS

Is your toilet from before 2004? Old, leaky models can significantly impact your utility bill. Consider replacing it with our help! Saving Water Partnership customers who replace their old, water-guzzling toilets with new Premium WaterSense 1.06 gpf (or less) models are eligible for a \$75 rebate (limit 2 per household). Learn more about eligible models at [www.savingwater.org/rebates](http://www.savingwater.org/rebates) or by calling **(206) 615-1282**.

### FREE TOILETS

Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) has a free toilet program for income-qualified homeowners. Families of four earning less than \$4,941 per month may qualify. Properties must be located within SPU's service area and must have existing toilets installed before 2004. Installation and recycling of old toilets is provided free of charge.

For more information, call us at **(206) 448-5751** or visit:

[http://www.seattle.gov/util/myservices/water/reduce\\_water\\_use/lowincometoiletoffer/](http://www.seattle.gov/util/myservices/water/reduce_water_use/lowincometoiletoffer/)

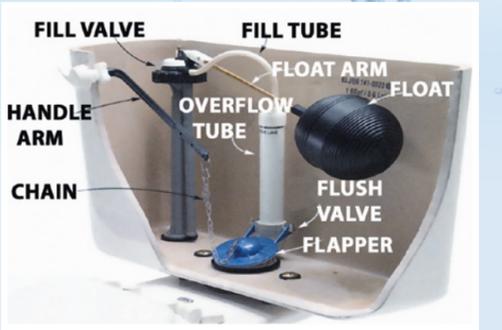
## Little Leaks=Big Bills

Finding and fixing leaks is an easy way to save money on your utility bills and save water for salmon and other wildlife. Leaky toilets, faucets, and outdoor watering systems around your home can cost a typical household hundreds of dollars a year on their utility bill, and waste thousands of gallons of water.

Of all household leaks, toilet leaks are often the most common and costliest. If you notice an unusually high utility bill, there's a good chance you have a leaky toilet.

### How to check and fix a leaky toilet:

- 1 Remove the toilet tank lid.
- 2 Place several drops of food coloring in the tank. Put lid back on. Don't flush.
- 3 Wait about 10 minutes, then look in the toilet bowl. If you see color in the toilet bowl, you have a leak.
- 4 A leaking toilet is most likely due to a worn out flapper, which is easy to replace.



**Remove old flapper:** Disconnect the chain from the flush arm, unclip the flapper from the overflow valve, and remove.

**Purchase new flapper to install:** Bring old flapper to the retailer to make sure you buy the right flapper for your toilet, because the wrong flapper can impair performance. Follow instructions on package to install the new flapper.