



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

## Help Prevent Flooding

You can help prevent flooding and improve water quality in your neighborhood and beyond by participating in Fall Clean 2008. Volunteer to help keep storm drains clear of leaves and other debris.



Seattle Public Utilities faces a big job every autumn, trying to keep storm drains from clogging with leaves and flooding streets with rainwater. As a way to involve citizens, the utility is promoting Fall Clean — a one-month event in November that supports volunteers with free gloves, bags, brooms, rakes, and safety vests, as well as help with leaf disposal.

Please don't wait until the streets are flooding to take action. Your efforts divert pollutants from streams, creeks and other natural waterways. For more information on Fall Clean call (206) 233-7187 or visit [www.seattle.gov/util/adoptadrain](http://www.seattle.gov/util/adoptadrain).

## Wash Smart & Protect Puget Sound

When you wash your car on the street or driveway, the soap, automotive fluids, and roadway dirt from the vehicle go straight into nearby storm drains that lead directly to lakes, streams, and Puget Sound. This harms fish and wildlife.

The best option is to take your car to a commercial car wash that reclaims the wash water several times before sending it to the sewer.

Learn more on how you can be part of making our waterways healthy at [www.seattle.gov/util/restoreourwaters](http://www.seattle.gov/util/restoreourwaters).

## How Are We Doing?



Environmental & Human Health Service Level Targets



SERVICE LEVEL TARGET	Target met in 2007?	Target met YTD 2008?
• Supply safe, pure drinking water that meets or exceeds regulations.	Yes	Yes
• Provide instream water for fish and meet other tribal, regional, state, and federal commitments.	Yes	Yes
• Achieve water conservation and leakage loss goals.	Yes	Yes
• Achieve city's waste reduction/recycling goal of 60% by 2012.	On Target	On Target
• Provide odor and rodent control at the city's recycling and disposal stations.	Yes	Yes
• Minimize overflows of sewage into local waters: • Limit storm-driven overflows to an average of one per overflow site per year by 2020. • Eliminate dry-weather overflows into local waters.	On Target  No*	On Target  No*

\* Currently working to improve dry weather overflow performance by upgrading wastewater pump stations.

For more information on service level targets, visit [www.seattle.gov/util](http://www.seattle.gov/util) and search for "Service Levels."



## Bert and Brown Bear's Carwash Coupon

Brown Bear Car Wash is teaming up with Seattle Public Utilities' Restore Our Waters program to thank you for choosing a salmon-friendly way to wash your car. This coupon is good for a free automatic car wash, valid until November 15, 2008. Go to [www.brownbear.com](http://www.brownbear.com) for locations.

Not valid with any other discounts or offer, no cash value.



BROWNBEAR.COM

## Shop Smart – Bring Your Own Bag!



Consider a healthy change of habit, and bring your own reusable bag the next time you go shopping. You'll be making the right choice for the environment. To help, the city will be providing free reusable shopping bags. Look for more information

on how to get your bag in upcoming issues of @ Your Service.

Cutting disposable bag use by 50 percent citywide will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 4,000 tons per year - the equivalent of taking 665 cars off the road. Fewer disposable bags also mean less garbage - by shopping with your new reusable bag you'll help reduce the trash Seattle sends to the landfill by 50 railroad cars every year.

To learn more, visit [www.seattle.gov/util/bagsandfoam](http://www.seattle.gov/util/bagsandfoam).

## Plant Now for Healthy Plants Next Summer

Cooler autumn air and warm soil are the perfect conditions for developing strong roots ahead of our dry summers. Healthy roots make for more drought-tolerant, disease-resistant plants. Plus, when you plant now, you can take advantage of “free” autumn rains to water those young roots instead of using your hose.



Photo: Crooks Garden Design

Check into fall nursery sales for good deals. Before you go, be sure you know what your garden will offer these new plants. For example, which of the following characteristics does it have?

- full sun, partial or complete shade
- sandy, clay or loamy soil

When you make a good match between your new plants and existing soil and sun conditions, your garden will flourish without excessive watering, pesticides or fertilizers. Receive more seasonal garden advice by signing up for our quarterly Savvy Gardener e-newsletter at [www.savingwater.org](http://www.savingwater.org).

## Take Winter by Storm

Did you know that during intense rain, flooding may occur without warning? Here are a few steps you can take to keep your family and property safe.

- Clear leaves and debris away from street drains in your neighborhood with a rake or broom (only if it's safe). 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 **(206) 386-1800**.
- Collect fallen leaves in your yard and deposit them in yard waste container or compost them.
- Clean gutters and downspouts twice a year.
- Have a family disaster plan.
- 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.
- Stay out of flooding basements.
- Be the first to know! Sign up for CurbWaste & Conserve E-News to receive e-mail alerts on weather impacts to your garbage, recycling and drainage services. Go to [www.seattle.gov/util/curbwaste](http://www.seattle.gov/util/curbwaste), scroll down to the bottom, and click on "Subscribe." Visit [www.seattle.gov/emergency](http://www.seattle.gov/emergency) to also find information on making an emergency kit and creating a disaster plan for you and your family.



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