

# EASY TIPS FOR COLLECTING FOOD SCRAPS



You don't need a special container to collect kitchen food scraps

- ✓ Consider using a container you may already have at home, such as a plastic ice cream container, or
- ✓ Purchase an inexpensive juice pitcher or other lidded container from a thrift store.



It's not necessary to line your washable container, but using a paper bag, paper towel or compostable bag can make clean up easier.

Remember, do not use plastic bags for your food waste.

**Plastic can NOT be composted.**

## Food Waste Questions?



### If you're worried about odors or fruit flies:

- ✓ Put a lid on your container
- ✓ Empty your container often
- ✓ Wash your container after emptying it
- ✓ Store food scraps in the freezer or refrigerator until collection day

**FOOD WASTE IS NOT ALLOWED IN THE GARBAGE.**

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)

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
SEATTLE, WA  
PERMIT NO. 6000

Tips and Programs for Seattle Residents

Spring 2016

Seattle Public Utilities



# Curb Waste & Conserve

## COMPOST SO LIFE GOES ON.

In 2015, Seattle residents living in apartments, condos and houses put 89,000 tons of food and yard waste into their green Food & Yard Waste cart instead of the garbage. These food scraps, paper towels, pizza boxes, bones and eggshells were made into compost and returned to nourish the soil of local parks and gardens. Why waste a good thing?



**FOOD WASTE IS NOT ALLOWED IN THE GARBAGE.**

### ARE YOU A PROPERTY MANAGER?

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

**\$100 Apartments/Condos** (with 5 or more units): 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.

The information in this newsletter can be made available on request to accommodate people with disabilities and those who need language translation assistance. Call Seattle Public Utilities at (206) 684-3000. TDD telephone number is (206) 233-7241. Please recycle this newsletter or pass it on to a friend. Printed on recycled paper made out of 100% post-consumer waste.

# Compost Food Waste @Work

You compost food scraps, coffee grounds and paper towels at home, now you can compost at work.

Businesses are prohibited from putting food waste, compostable food packaging and recyclables in the garbage. Significant amounts of recyclables in the garbage could result in a \$50 fee.

Avoid penalties, reduce garbage costs and improve your workplace food waste collection system.

Visit [www.seattle.gov/util/greenyourbusiness](http://www.seattle.gov/util/greenyourbusiness) for a list of food waste collection services and for free posters, signage and stickers.

Green Your Business



## GIVE DAMAGED CLOTHES NEW LIFE!

Do you toss damaged clothes, shoes and household linens in the trash because you don't think they can be donated? We've got great news: items that aren't reusable can now be recycled into new products rather than going in the trash. Many of the same organizations that take your gently used clothes will also take the badly worn and torn ones—all in the same bag.

### MANY USES FOR DAMAGED, UNWEARABLE CLOTHES

Damaged items can be turned into wiping cloths, home insulation, sound-proofing and insulation for automobiles and appliances. Even single shoes, socks, gloves and other items that are normally paired-up are accepted. Why? Single items can be matched with other "singles," sold to export markets and worn by people who otherwise would not have those items to wear.

### CONVENIENT DROP-OFFS OR PICK-UPS

There are many easy ways to donate these items, from taking them to a nearby collection site or drop box, to arranging for a pick-up. Learn *what* you can give and *where* at [kingcounty.gov/threadcycle](http://kingcounty.gov/threadcycle).

**Threadcycle**

Give all your clothes, shoes and linens for reuse or recycling

Sponsored by:  
King County & Seattle Public Utilities

## What's New in Recycling?

Seattle residents can now recycle even more.

### LARGE PLASTIC ITEMS

Put plastic laundry baskets, molded plastic lawn chairs, and plastic tubs, buckets and storage containers directly into your recycling container. If they don't fit in your cart, items less than 3'x3'x3' can be set next to your recycling container. Items bigger than 3'x3'x3' need to be broken down. Put small items in a sturdy box or reusable container and set it next to your recycling cart.

### PLASTIC CAPS ON EMPTY PLASTIC BOTTLES

To recycle plastic bottle caps, put the plastic cap on an EMPTY plastic bottle and drop it in the recycling. Loose caps (not attached to a bottle) go in the garbage.

### COOKING OIL

Follow these instructions to recycle used cooking oil:

1. Pour the cooled oil into a plastic jug with a tight-fitting, screw-on lid
2. Label the jug with your name and address
3. Set the labelled, tightly-closed jug **next to your recycling cart**

Used motor oil is also recyclable if prepared and set out as described above. There is a limit of 2 gallons of oil (either type of oil) per collection day. Do not mix oils.



Questions about what to recycle?

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



## Spring into Gardening ACTION

Don't just spring out of bed, *Spring into ACTION* and follow these 4 tips to a successful gardening experience:

- ✓ **PLANT early and plant right** – Planting in early spring allows your plants to take advantage of spring rains. Choose the right location for your plants so they naturally fit in with the right soil type and the right sunny or shady conditions. If you forget to plant in spring, wait until fall to take advantage of the rain.
- ✓ **MULCH deep** – First weed your garden, then add 2 to 3 inches of woodchips so your garden retains more moisture in the soil and prevents weeds from growing.
- ✓ **CHECK for irrigation leaks** – Check your hose connections for leaks. Turn on your sprinkler to make sure it works properly. If your sprinkler system is underground, turn it on and look for sprinkler heads that are pointing the wrong direction. Look for dripping automatic valves.
- ✓ **IRRIGATE when necessary** – Spring and fall are not as hot as summer. Irrigate longer in the summer and less during the spring and fall. If you have an automatic irrigation system, **get a \$100 rebate** for a WaterSense controller that tracks the weather and irrigates when necessary. Qualification details are online at [www.savingwater.org](http://www.savingwater.org).

For more tips on planting and maintaining a successful garden go to [www.savingwater.org](http://www.savingwater.org) or [www.gardenhotline.org](http://www.gardenhotline.org).

The Garden Hotline is partially funded by the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County.

## Garden Questions?

CALL THE GARDEN HOTLINE  
(206) 633-0224

Is this the right time to plant tomatoes? Where can I find good soil or compost for my raised beds? I'm battling slugs and snails and would really like to win this year. Who can I call for solutions that work?

Home gardeners and landscape professionals can get expert advice:

Call the **Garden Hotline at (206) 633-0224, Monday—Saturday, 9 a.m.—5 p.m.**

Visit [www.GardenHotline.org](http://www.GardenHotline.org) for classes, events, and videos. Email your questions anytime.

We offer advice on managing plant pests and encouraging helpful insects, reducing water use, managing rain water, planting for wildlife, building soil, mulching, chemical-free gardening and lawn care, and much more!

### YOUR GARDEN. OUR EXPERTISE.

Get advice at  
(206) 633-0224.

Interpreters are available in many languages.

Intérpretes disponibles.

Thông dịch viên.

提供口譯。



## Spring Clean Your Neighborhood

Spring is almost here and now is the time for Seattleites to gear up and take part in the city's longest-running neighborhood cleanup program—**Spring Clean**. Now in its 30th year, **Spring Clean** runs from April through May. Help pick up litter, stencil storm drains, or paint out graffiti in your community. All Spring Clean projects are on public property. The City of Seattle supports volunteers with FREE bags, gloves, safety vests, and waste disposal.

**Get started today!** Call (206) 233-7187, or register online at [www.seattle.gov/util/SpringClean](http://www.seattle.gov/util/SpringClean).

### SMALL SPARKS FUND

Ask us about grants from our partner, the Department of Neighborhoods. You could get a grant for up to \$1,000 for your community cleanup. The deadline for applications is six weeks before your event. Learn more at: [www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/neighborhood-matching-fund](http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/neighborhood-matching-fund)

## Free Auto Leaks Workshop

Oil and other fluids that leak from your car find their way to Puget Sound and other waterways, hurting wildlife and habitat.

Seattle Public Utilities' Automotive Maintenance Program offers FREE workshops to help you prevent these leaks. Participate in a FREE Auto Leaks Workshop this spring! You'll have your car inspected by a certified automotive instructor and learn to spot and fix leaks.

### UPCOMING CLASSES:

Saturday, May 14, 2016

Saturday, June 25, 2016

Saturday, July 23, 2016

Don't Drip & Drive



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