Where Does It Go?

PLEASE POST

See what goes in your recycling, food and yard waste or garbage bins

Recycling

Place clean and empty items loose in cart, not bagged or in boxes.

No Food, Liquid or Single Plastic Bags.

Paper
Cartons & boxes
Flattened cardboard
Coated paper
Glass bottles & jars
Cans
Aluminum foil

Lids (3 in. or wider)
Scrap metal (less than 2x2x2 ft.)
Plastic bottles, jars, tubs
Plastic trays, cups, containers
Plastic plant pots
Plastic bags (bagged together)
Pill bottles (no prescription vials)

Packaging **must be clean** to be recyclable.

Recyclable	Garbage
Clean!	Dirty!

Please Rinse & Recycle!

Food+ Compostables

Food is not allowed in the garbage.

No Plastic Bags. No Plastic, Metal or Glass. No Animal Waste.

Meat, fish, dairy & cheese
Bones & shells
Coffee grounds & filters
Fruits & vegetables
Pasta, bread, grains & rice
Tea bags

Approved compostable bags
Paper towels & napkins
Uncoated paper bags
Greasy cardboard pizza boxes
Uncoated paper plates

Shredded paper
(mix with yard waste)
Grass, weeds & leaves
Houseplants (no pots)
Branches (less than 4 ft. x 4 in.)

Garbage

Many items can be recycled. See back page for reuse & recycling options.

No Food. No Yard Waste. No Recyclables.

Styrofoam™ products
Unusable ceramics & glassware
Utensils
Incandescent light bulbs

Lids, caps, tops (less than 3 in. wide)
Ziplock, food & single plastic bags
Kitchen fats, oil, grease
(in a secure container)
Diapers & animal waste (bagged)

Food-soiled coated paper
Food-soiled plastic containers
Paint cans (lid off, dry & empty)
Packing peanuts (bagged)
Empty toxic containers

Seattle Public Utilities

Products containing toxic materials are prohibited from food and yard waste, recycling and garbage.

Not sure where it goes? Go to www.seattle.gov/util/lookitup to find out.
www.seattle.gov/util 206-684-3000 TTY 206-233-7241

Pacific Steam · Recology · WM Think Green · Republic Services · Lenz Enterprises

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Compost Food.

It's Not Garbage Anymore!
New Requirements Start Jan. 1

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 **206-684-3000**으로 전화하세요.
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Về dịch vụ phiên dịch xin gọi 206-684-3000.

Good for One Free
Kitchen Compost Container

Are you ready for Seattle's new food waste requirements?
While supplies last, present this coupon at the new South Transfer Station in South Park and receive a free kitchen compost container!

From ecovio™ by BASF, these containers are a great way to store and carry your leftover food scraps to your food and yard waste cart.

Stop by the South Transfer Station anytime between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., seven days a week to pick up your free kitchen compost container. Limit one per car/household. Seattle residents only.

The South Transfer Station is at 130 South Kenyon Street in South Park. Directions, station hours and traffic cams for the South Transfer Station are at **www.seattle.gov/util/Dump**.

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.

Tips and Programs for Seattle Residents **Winter 2014**

Seattle Public Utilities

CurbWaste & Conserve

Compost Food—It's Not Garbage Anymore!

NEW REQUIREMENTS START JANUARY 1

Every year, Seattle spends more than $13 million dollars to send its trash to a landfill in eastern Oregon. More than one-third of that material is made up of table scraps, coffee grounds, banana peels, chicken bones, and other food waste.

It's not garbage anymore!

Starting January 1, 2015, the City of Seattle will no longer allow food and compostable paper, including food-soiled cardboard, paper napkins and paper towels, in the garbage. After July 1, 2015 fines will be issued to businesses and residents whose garbage containers contain too much food or recyclables.

Today, more than 300,000 single-family, multi-family and commercial establishments participate in Seattle's food and yard waste program – diverting nearly 400,000 tons of food from the landfill through curbside food collection since 2005.

Go to **www.seattle.gov/util/foodwaste** to learn more and receive tips and advice on how to get started composting today, or call **(206) 684-3000**.

COMPOSTING AT APARTMENT & CONDOS

Seattle Public Utilities offers free resources to buildings to help buildings comply with the Jan. 1 food waste requirements:

FRIENDS OF RECYCLING AND COMPOSTING (FORC) PROGRAM:
A one-time $100 rebate, and a training which qualifies your property for free kitchen food waste containers for every unit
www.seattle.gov/util/apartmentfoodwaste

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OR EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS.
Leave message at **(206) 684-8717, press #2.**

POSTERS, LABELS AND BROCHURES IN MANY LANGUAGES.
www.seattle.gov/util/recyclingeducation or request an order card at **(206) 684-8717, press #2.**

All multi-family properties must subscribe to food waste collection service. If you are a resident at a property that does not yet have a green food and yard waste cart, contact your manager. If the manager is not willing to provide this service, call **(206) 684-7665** for assistance.

Advice from Our Readers

In a recent poll, 3 out of 4 Seattle residents supported a requirement to compost food.
The most common reason they compost food? "It's easy," they say.

When we asked folks how they compost in the kitchen, we heard that everyone has their own way of storing their leftover kitchen scraps and carrying it to their food and yard waste cart. Suggestions include:

- Wrap them in newspaper or use paper bags.
- Use green compostable bags found at most grocery stores.
- Use a reusable container, such as a coffee can, Tupperware, juice pitcher or bowl. When it's full, they empty the container in the food and yard cart, rinse the container out, and put it back in the kitchen. Many residents use a combination of compostable bags and reusable containers to keep their kitchens tidy.

Lots of people keep their food scrap container by the kitchen garbage and recycling containers to remind everyone to use it. Still others keep it in the refrigerator or freezer to keep things fresh until collection day.

The important thing, residents say, is to keep a routine. Take scraps out to the curb at least once a week for collection. Once you get in the habit, it becomes easier, cleaner and second nature! You'll be amazed at how much emptier your garbage can becomes.

Need help getting started? Ask your friends and neighbors or visit **www.seattle.gov/util/foodwaste** for more advice, and see the free kitchen food scrap container offers elsewhere in this newsletter.

What is Compost?

Compost is decomposed organic matter that is used as a soil amendment.

Rich in nutrients, compost is a valuable natural resource for building healthy soil and plants in gardens, landscaping, farms and parks. Compost filters runoff to protect our streams and lakes, prevents soil erosion, protects plants from diseases, and saves you money by reducing summer irrigation needs.

Fun fact: Compostable items don't turn into compost if you put them in the garbage. Because buried food isn't exposed to oxygen in a landfill, it slowly decomposes and creates methane, a potent greenhouse gas. Seattle's food and yard waste is sent to local high-tech composting facilities where it breaks down into compost in about two months.

Seattle businesses and residents divert more than 125,000 tons of waste from the landfill through composting every year.

HAZARDOUS WASTE

Let Us Take Care of That For You!

Winter is here and your storage is full of unwanted items, like fluorescent lights, pool and spa supplies, propane tanks and other household hazardous products.

We have two locations in Seattle where you can take these items and dispose of them for free, in a way that protects your health and the environment.

The north Seattle facility at 12550 Stone Ave N, 98133 is open Sunday-Tuesday from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. except major holidays.

The south Seattle facility at 8105 Fifth Ave S, 98109 is open Thursday – Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. except major holidays.

Find out what you can take before you go, by visiting our website at **www.HazWasteHelp.org** or by calling our Household Hazards Line at **206-296-4692** Monday-Friday 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. except holidays.

You have already paid for this service in your utility bill, so there is no charge when you drop off these wastes.

Hazardous waste disposal is a program of the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County. **Questions? Call 206-296-4692.**

Do I need to compost food at my work?

Yes. Starting Jan. 1 all Seattle businesses will be required to have composting service and will no longer be allowed to put food in garbage. Ask your employer or contact our free Green Business Program at **www.seattle.gov/util/greenyourbusiness** or **(206)343-8505** to get started today!

Do I have to pay for extra recycling?

No. Seattle residents can recycle as much as they want for no charge.

During the holiday season, recycling carts tend to get pretty full! You can put extra recyclables next to your recycling cart in sturdy bins, boxes or 32-gallon cans. Flatten cardboard boxes.

Why do we send our garbage to Oregon?

Throughout our city's history, Seattle has struggled to properly manage its waste.

Garbage was burned or dumped in local ravines and Puget Sound. Dumps littered the Interbay, Montlake, Genesee, Haller Lake and South Park neighborhoods.

In the 1980s, regional landfills filled up and were placed on the EPA's Superfund cleanup list, causing the cost to dump trash locally to skyrocket.

Facing this crisis, Seattle secured a long term, cost-effective disposal contract with an environmentally-safe, privately-owned landfill in the desert town of Arlington, Oregon — 300 miles away by train. Seattle then launched a major effort to reduce Seattle's waste. Twenty-five years ago, Seattle became one of the first major cities in the country to have a curbside recycling program and quickly became a national leader in its effort to reduce, reuse and recycle.

Today, Seattle recycles or composts 56.2 percent of all the waste it generates. However, we still send more than 300,000 tons of trash to Oregon every year — half of which could be recycled or composted. Why waste a good thing?

Do I need to take off the little stickers on my fruit and veggies before I compost them?

Yes! Stickers, plastic bags, and other plastic items are not allowed in the food and yard waste cart. See guidelines on what can be placed in your food and yard waste cart.

Follow Ask Evelyn on Facebook
www.facebook.com/EvelyntheEnvelope

Where Does It Go?

Other Collection Services

Apartment/condo residents: Contact your manager for these services.

Used motor oil: Free
Collected at no charge on your recycling day.
Place oil in a 1-gallon plastic jug with screw-on lid next to your recycling cart. Limit: 2 jugs per collection.

Electronics ***(Computers, TVs, monitors)***
Collected for a fee. Call **206-684-3000**.

Bulky items ***(Furniture, appliances, etc.)***
Collected for a fee. Call **206-684-3000**.

Beyond the Curb

Visit www.seattle.gov/util/lookitup to recycle these items at local drop-off locations.

Electronics & cell phones
Batteries
Mattresses
Fluorescent bulbs & tubes
Clothing, furniture & household goods
Styrofoam
Medicine
Construction materials
Garbage, recycling, clean wood & yard waste

Hazardous Materials

Prohibited from recycling, yard waste and garbage.

Products marked "CAUTION," "WARNING," "DANGER" or "POISON" may require hazardous waste disposal.

Safe hazardous material disposal information:
206-296-4692 or www.hazwastehelp.org

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