



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

## Ask Questions Before Letting People in Your House

On occasion, Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) employees will visit a private residence to post notices and verify or correct a problem. It is rare for an SPU employee to come to a home without an appointment. SPU customers can expect that if we come to your door we will:

- Show you our City of Seattle-issued photo ID card.
- Encourage you to phone SPU, at **206-386-1800**, to verify who we are.
- Only enter your home with your permission.
- Never ask you to pay the person at the door with cash or check for utility charges.
- Not solicit work, such as plumbing on your property, that SPU does not typically provide.

If anyone approaches you and states they are an SPU or water department employee and does not abide by the guidelines above or makes you uncomfortable, don't let them in — call **911!**



## Save Time and Money: Grasscycle!

Grasscycling means leaving your clippings on the lawn, to break down and feed the soil. Studies show that grasscycling doesn't cause thatch, but does improve lawn rooting depth, disease and drought resistance, and provides free fertilizer. You save money on water and fertilizer, and save the time it takes to bag and drag clippings to the curb.

### Grasscycling Tips

- Leave the bag off your mower and let the clippings drop – earthworms will recycle them!
- Mow when the grass is dry, and keep mower blades sharp.
- Raise mowing heights or mow more frequently during fast spring growth.
- Water and fertilize less – save when you grasscycle!

Shopping for a new mower? Choose a “mulching” mower. You can learn more about mowers, grasscycling and all your lawn and garden questions by calling the Garden Hotline at **206-633-0224** or emailing [help@gardenhotline.org](mailto:help@gardenhotline.org) or visiting [www.gardenhotline.org](http://www.gardenhotline.org).

## Spring Clean Your Neighborhood!

Begins April 1.

Spring is quickly approaching and that means it's time for Spring Clean – Seattle's premier community cleanup event. Seattle Public Utilities invites you and your neighbors to participate!

This program is a partnership of volunteers and Seattle Public Utilities, the Department of Neighborhoods, Seattle Parks and Recreation, and Seattle Department of Transportation.

**Dates:** Spring Clean is a two-month event lasting from April through May.

**Need a Project Idea?** Pick up litter, protect salmon by stenciling storm drains, paint out graffiti, remove invasive plants, or join a planned event in your community. Please note that all Spring Clean projects are on public property.

**The City Will Help You!** FREE litter cleanup bags, gloves, safety vests, and waste disposal permits.

Get Started! Call **206-233-7187** or go to [www.seattle.gov/util/SpringClean](http://www.seattle.gov/util/SpringClean).

## Fix a Leaky Outdoor Faucet

Leaks in outdoor faucets usually occur in two places – the handle and the spout.

To fix a leak coming from the handle, try tightening the nut behind the handle with a wrench. If that fails to stop the leak, or if the leak is coming from the spout, you'll have to take the faucet apart.

Start by turning off the water supply at your shutoff valve and unscrewing the screw that holds the handle in place.

Behind the handle, you'll find a packing nut. Using a wrench, turn the nut counterclockwise and slide out the valve assembly.

Older valve stem assemblies have two washers – one behind the packing nut and one at the base of the assembly. If the washer behind the packing nut is worn, use a wrench to loosen the nut and take out the washer. Take the old washer to a plumbing supply store to make sure you're replacing it with the right one.

To replace a worn washer at the base of the valve stem, unscrew the screw that holds the washer in place, remove the worn washer, and replace it with a new, matching one.

Leaks in long frost-free valve stems are more difficult to fix, especially if the leak is inside your wall or if your valve stem is soldered onto your supply line. If you have this type of valve stem, consult a plumbing supply store for advice.

For more information on fixing leaks and step-by-step videos, visit [www.savingwater.org/fixaleak](http://www.savingwater.org/fixaleak) or call 206-684-SAVE.



## Don't Miss Compost Days!

Last year, Seattle diverted 125,000 tons of food and yard waste from the landfill through curbside collection and backyard composting.

Way to go! Compost Days celebrates Seattle's composting success by offering the biggest discounts of the year on compost and kitchen scrap composting products.

Now through April 30, Seattle Public Utilities and Cedar Grove are offering coupons worth:

- 35% off kitchen food scrap containers
- Buy 2 bags of compost, get a 3rd bag free
- 15% off bulk compost
- And much, much more!

Get Compost Days coupons and locations of participating retailers by visiting [www.cgcompost.com](http://www.cgcompost.com) or calling 1-877-764-5748.

## LOW-INTEREST HOME REPAIR LOAN PROGRAM

Do you need to replace your side sewer? Do you have other overlooked repairs? The Seattle Office of Housing's Home Repair Loan program provides low- or no-interest loans to qualified low- and moderate-income homeowners in the City of Seattle. The income limit is about \$51,000 for a two-person household and \$64,000 for a four-person household.

Eligible home repairs and improvements include: electrical upgrades; plumbing and/or sewer repair; structural repair; brick or masonry repair; repair or replacement of the foundation, furnace/boiler, water lines, hot water heater, roof or gutters; insulation/weatherization; and appliances, if existing ones are nonfunctional, inefficient or in very poor condition (no washers or dryers). Other repairs may qualify as well.

For information about program guidelines or to request an application, call 206-684-0244 or email [homewise@seattle.gov](mailto:homewise@seattle.gov).



## Follow Us at SPU

Get connected with us at Seattle Public Utilities. Follow impacts to your service, learn about volunteer opportunities, and find coupons and other money-saving advice. Follow us on **Twitter** (SeattleSPU), become a fan of **Bert the Salmon**, the **Cedar River Watershed**, **Evelyn the Envelope**, and the **Savvy Gardener** on **Facebook** or subscribe to our daily blog *At Your Service*.

@ Your Service is published bimonthly by the Seattle Public Utilities Customer Service Branch, 700 5th Ave., Suite 2777; PO Box 34027; Seattle, WA 98124-4027. @ Your Service is also available at: [www.seattle.gov/util](http://www.seattle.gov/util)

@ Su Servicio se encuentra ahora disponible en español en [www.seattle.gov/util/About\\_SPU/News/](http://www.seattle.gov/util/About_SPU/News/).  
phục vụ tiếng Việt sẵn sàng giúp đỡ tại [www.seattle.gov/util/About\\_SPU/News/](http://www.seattle.gov/util/About_SPU/News/).

@ Your Service 亦可在 [www.seattle.gov/util](http://www.seattle.gov/util) 網站上查閱

