

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

Spring Clean Your Neighborhood!

Starts April 1.

It's time for Spring Clean, Seattle's premier community cleanup event. Seattle Public Utilities invites you and your neighbors to participate April 1 - May 31.

Help pick up litter, stencil storm drains, paint out graffiti, or remove invasive plants in your community. All Spring Clean projects are on public property. Volunteers receive free litter cleanup bags, gloves, safety vests, and waste disposal permits.

Register online at www.seattle.gov/util/SpringClean or at 206-233-7187.



Think Spring - In the Garden

Act now for a beautiful yard that is easy on you and the environment:

- Mulch your garden beds after spring weeding to limit weeds and prepare for the warmer weather ahead.
- Plant new plants through mid-May; otherwise wait until fall. Use the 'right plant in the right place' for plants that thrive in your yard's conditions with less maintenance.
- If your lawn needs it, now is the time to aerate, dethatch, and overseed.
- Sharpen the blades on your mulching mower and mow high (two inches) for a better looking, healthier lawn.
- If you want to fertilize your lawn, fertilize in May with a 'natural organic' or 'slow-release' product. Don't fertilize again until September.

Visit www.savingwater.org for more yard tips. For free answers to all your gardening questions contact the Garden Hotline at 206-633-0224, or at www.gardenhotline.org.

Friend us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/savvygardenernews.

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 or call 206-684-SAVE.



Free! Don't
Drip & Drive



**Fix That
Leak!**

Auto Leaks Class

Attend a FREE Auto Leaks Workshop – a \$125 value! Get your car inspected by a certified mechanic. Find out if you have any leaks and identify the source of the leaks. A leaky car isn't reliable, and it's harmful to the Puget Sound. Learn more at www.seattle.gov/util/AutoLeaks.

Classes are from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Choose from these dates at South Seattle College in West Seattle:

- May 16, June 13, July 18
- New! Spanish Language Class: March 21 and April 18.

Register today:

SPU_EPTResources@seattle.gov or
206-615-1222



Compost Food It's Not Garbage Anymore!

Seattle no longer allows food and compostable paper, including paper napkins and paper towels, in the garbage.

Already 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.

We can do better! Seattle still throws away 100,000 tons of food – that's equal to 11,000 garbage trucks – every year. Instead of sending that wasted resource 300 miles away to a landfill in Oregon, put that food and paper in your yard cart where it will become compost for reuse in yards and gardens.

After July 1, 2015 fines will be issued to businesses and residents whose garbage containers contain too much food or recyclables. Visit www.seattle.gov/util/foodwaste or call 206-684-3000 to learn more and get started composting today.

Recycle Your Fluorescents at Over 200 Locations

A new state-wide recycling program – Light Recycle Washington – lets you drop off up to 10 fluorescent bulbs and tubes a day for free!

Why recycle and not trash your old bulbs and tubes? Fluorescent lights contain a very small amount of mercury; however, millions of these lights are sold every year in Washington. Taken together, the mercury from fluorescent lights and tubes has potential to harm human health and the environment if not properly recycled.

Get started today. Find a recycling location and learn more at www.lightrecyclewa.org.



Threadcycle

Sadly Torn, Badly Worn or Even Stained

You can give ALL your clothes, shoes and linens for reuse or recycling as long as they are not wet, mildewed, or soiled with hazardous materials.

Damaged clothes and linens aren't trash – they can have a second life as new products such as wiping rags; padding for carpet, mattresses and upholstery; and insulation material for automobiles and appliances. Please do not place these items in your curbside recycling. Instead, look up the nearest Threadcycle partner to drop off your items or have them picked up. Partners include: Big Brothers Big Sisters of Puget Sound, Northwest Center, Salvation Army Family Thrift Stores, Seattle Goodwill, SightConnection, TexGreen, USAgain, and Value Village.

Sponsored by King County and Seattle Public Utilities. Learn more at www.kingcounty.gov/threadcycle.



\$75 Toilet Rebates

For a limited time, customers replacing pre-2004 water-guzzling toilets with the latest 1.06 gallons per flush models will receive a \$75 rebate per toilet replaced (limit 2 per household).

Visit www.savingwater.org/rebates for a complete list of retailers, qualifying models and more details, or call 206-615-1282.

Are You a Fan of Puget Sound?

Join Seattle Public Utilities and a host of regional partners for **Puget Sound Starts Here Night** at Safeco Field on Saturday, May 16 as the Seattle Mariners take on the Boston Red Sox at 6:10 p.m. Receive a free Seattle Mariners Puget Sound Starts Here gift when purchasing tickets through this special online offer – View Level \$16 (normally \$25); Main Level \$31 (normally \$40). Visit www.mariners.com/pugetsound to purchase tickets.

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