

Bellevue Utilities News

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

November - December 2019

General Information 425-452-6932

Customer Service/Billing 425-452-6973

Drinking Water Quality 425-452-6192

Utilities Maintenance & 24 Hour Emergencies 425-452-7840

(flooding -- water main breaks -- no water -- sewer overflows -- pollutant spills)

Email utilities@bellevuewa.gov

Web utilities.bellevuewa.gov

Non-city phone numbers Republic Services (solid waste service) 425-452-4762

Compost Your Holiday Greens

Keep your Christmas trees and other holiday greens out of the landfill—compost them!

At the Curb

Single-family residents can put Christmas trees and other greens out on your regular collection day. Cut trees into sections, four feet long or shorter, with branches trimmed to less than four feet to fit into the collection trucks. Bundle each section with twine (not plastic). Decorated, flocked and plastic trees are not recyclable, and will be charged as extra garbage.

At Apartments and Condos

Check with your manager. The same handling rules apply from “At the Curb.”

Questions: Contact Republic Services at **425-452-4762** or RepublicBellevue.com.

Holiday Collection Schedule

There is no collection on the following holidays:

- Thanksgiving: Thursday, November 28
- Christmas: Wednesday, December 25
- New Year's Day: Wednesday, January 1
- An observed holiday will shift collection to the following day for all customers for the remainder of the week, through Saturday.



Snow and Ice Collections

If weather conditions prevent the safe collection of curbside garbage, recycling, or organics, please remove your carts from the street by the end of the day. On your next regularly scheduled collection day, up to twice the regular amount of materials will be collected at no additional charge. Alerts will be posted at RepublicBellevue.com.

Follow these handling instructions:

- **Extra Garbage:** Place securely in tied plastic bags labeled “Garbage” (maximum 65-pound weight limit) next to the cart or in 32-gallon lidded cans.
- **Extra Recycling:** Box, bundle or place in brown paper bags, label “Recycling,” and place next to recycling cart. Please do not place recycling in plastic bags.
- **Extra Yard Debris:** Label “Yard” and place next to cart. No food scraps outside of cart. Please do not use plastic bags. You may use paper yard waste bags (available at hardware stores) and place next to your food/yard cart, 32-gallon cans with handles and lids (65-pound weight limit), and bundles (4-by-2-foot limit) tied with twine. Residents may set out up to three 32-gallon units of extras at no charge.

In the event of severe snow and ice that makes collection unsafe, Republic Services will implement its inclement weather plan. Republic Services will notify customers of changes to the pick-up schedule as quickly as possible, and provide ongoing updates throughout the situation.

Questions: Contact Republic Services at **425-452-4762** or RepublicBellevue.com.

Recycle Holiday Household Hazardous Waste



There is usually some assembly required during the holiday season, and that sometimes involves batteries, CFL light bulbs and other household hazardous waste. Single-family home residents can recycle the following items curbside by following these simple steps:

- **Contact Republic Services** at **425-452-4762** to arrange for a curbside pickup.
- **Fluorescent Tubes and Bulbs:** Wrap in newspaper and secure with tape. Place next to recycling container and mark “Fluorescent Tubes.” Tubes can be no longer than four feet long. Limit two per collection and ten per year.
- **Household Batteries:** Place rechargeable and non-rechargeable batteries in separate clear, sealed bags. Set on top of recycling container.
- **Small Electronics and Appliance Recycling:** Place on top of recycling container. Items that are two feet square or smaller and less than 60 pounds are accepted.

Residents of apartments and condos can drop off the above at Republic Services' In-City Recycling Drop-off Center at 1600 127th Ave. NE.



Flood Prevention Tips

You can help prevent flooding in your neighborhood by following the tips below. A little effort goes a long way!

- Clear debris from storm drains near your home.
- Do not block water flow by dumping trash or yard debris into streams, wetlands, or drainage ditches.
- Leave natural vegetation on steep slopes and along streams and lakes.
- If you own a sump pump, test it before a storm.
- Clean your gutters, downspouts, and cleanouts at least twice a year.
- Know that standard property insurance doesn't cover flood damage. Ask your agent about flood insurance, which is available even if you don't live in a flood plain.
- Call Utilities at **425-452-7869** to find out if your property is in a floodplain.
- Call 911 for emergencies. Call Utilities at **425-452-7840** if your home is in danger of flooding.

Visit bellevuewa.gov/BeFloodReady to get more flood protection information.



Cheers to Greener Holidays

Did you know that nationwide, between November and January, we throw away a million extra tons of garbage each week? Our eco-friendly holiday tips below can help to cut waste while we celebrate:

- **Ditch disposable tableware** if you can. A few extra dishes can save tons of plastic waste from landfill. If you use disposables, opt for recyclable or compostable brands.
- **Waste less food** during your big holiday meals by hosting a potluck or sending guests home with leftovers in reusable containers.
- **Reuse gift wrap:** Save durable items like bags, boxes and bows for second use. Or use beautiful reusable materials, like cloth wrappings inspired by the Japanese Furoshiki tradition. Make it a family game to find the most creative zero-waste wrapping.
- **Give green:** Instead of things that can be thrown away, give experiences – certificates or tickets to favorite events you can enjoy together such as restaurants, plays, concerts or sports events. Or plan a day trip or adventure to somewhere new. Memberships and classes make great gifts too!
- **Remember to recycle** when the holiday is over. Most wrapping paper can be recycled in your curbside cart. Many local retailers and organizations host holiday light recycle events, and you can compost your holiday tree and other greenery. Visit BellevueWA.gov/recyclerright or see your recycle guide for more information.

Find more great tips to help you make holiday memories without making waste at KCGreenHolidays.com.

Avoid a Holiday Horror Story

Keep Your Sewer Fat-Free

Homeowners and building owners are responsible for repairing and maintaining their side sewer connections to the city's sewer system. Sewer clogs often peak during the holiday season when turkeys, trimmings, and other holiday fare are prepared for friends and family.

Sewer Clogs Can Be Costly

When a sewer backup is caused by a side sewer failure, you may be faced with digging up your yard, removing the adjoining sidewalk, and/or opening up the street, potentially costing tens of thousands of dollars. Repairs are NOT typically covered by homeowners insurance.

An Ounce of Prevention

You can prevent grease from clogging your side sewer by pouring used dairy products, fats, oil, grease into a lidded container and placing it in the trash – NOT down the sink drain. Food scraps can also be composted instead of using your garbage disposal.



Contact us for a free food scraper and sample of compostable bags at recycle@bellevuewa.gov to get you started.

Recycle Cooking Oil

Call Republic Services at **425-452-4762** to schedule a free curbside pick-up. Seal uncontaminated oil (no large solids) in clean, clear, screw-top, plastic jugs. Label jugs with your name and address. Limit 3 gallons per drop-off and 10 gallons per year.

Keep the Chill Out!

Each winter, homes are damaged due to water pipes that freeze and burst. By taking a few simple precautions, you can help save yourself from the mess, money and headaches of burst frozen pipes.

Before the Cold Hits

- Insulate pipes in your home's crawl spaces, basement and attic. Exposed pipes are more susceptible to freezing. The more insulation you use, the better the protection.
- Heat tape can be used to wrap pipes. Closely follow the manufacturer's installation and operation instructions.
- Seal leaks and close foundation vents to minimize cold air entering your house and freezing pipes. Open vents again in the spring to prevent dry rot.
- Drain and disconnect garden hoses and insulate hose bibs.
- Know where your water shut-off valve is located. As an alternative, you can turn off water at the water meter. Learn more at bellevuewa.gov/TurnOffWater.

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