

Bellevue Utilities News

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

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

July - August 2019

Become a Leak Detective and Save Money

Slow drips of water can add up quickly. A toilet that keeps running after you flush or a sink that drips after it is turned off can waste thousands of gallons of water a year. If an irrigation line breaks, it can be much more. Unfortunately, many leaks go undetected until a high water bill sends an alert that something is wrong. Learn to be a leak detective and avoid water waste.

To determine if you have a leak:

1. Turn off all water in your house. Locate your meter. It's generally located in the ground near the curb in front of the house.
2. Open the lid and use a rag to clear away any debris. If the black or red triangle or silver gear is spinning, and all water has been turned off in your house, you probably have a leak.
3. Another way to check is to turn off all water in your house and record the reading on your meter. Wait 30 minutes without using any water. Check the meter again. If the numbers have changed, you probably have a leak.

Bellevue's Leak Adjustment Policy

Bellevue Utilities reads your water meter once every two months. If a leak goes undetected during that time, it can add up to thousands of dollars, causing an increase to your water and sewer charges.

The city's leak adjustment policy allows one adjustment per property owner for the outside buried service line only, with a written request and proof of repair. We do not make adjustments for leaks to optional devices, such as irrigation systems, pools, water features, or boat docks. By taking the leak detection steps above, you can prevent large bills due to leaks.

Learn more at bellevuewa.gov/LeakAdjustments.

Don't Trash It! Drop It Off or Have It Picked Up!



Republic Services offers expanded recycling options year-around for single-family and multifamily residents – two more ways to keep items out of the landfill. Customers can either drop off items at **Republic Services Drop-off Recycling Center at 1600 127th Avenue NE** or arrange for a special pick up by calling 425-452-4762. The recycling center is open **Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

Drop off these items or call 425-452-4762 to schedule a free pick-up

- **Fluorescent Tubes & Bulbs:** Tubes should be no longer than four feet, wrapped in paper, secured with tape and marked "fluorescent tubes." Bulbs should be in closed plastic bags. Limit two tubes/bulbs per collection/visit and 10 per year.
- **Household Batteries:** Place rechargeable and non-rechargeable batteries in separate, clear, sealed bags.
- **Rigid Plastics:** Examples include five-gallon buckets, PVC pipes, laundry baskets, plastic lawn furniture, Big Wheels, coolers, and Nalgene bottles. Size limit: two-feet square. **NO CALL NECESSARY FOR PICK-UP:** Rigid plastics can be placed in or next to recycle carts on your collection day.
- **Scrap Metal:** All ferrous and non-ferrous scrap metal, including lids three inches or larger, that are free of wood, plastic, rubber, and other contaminants. **NO CALL NECESSARY FOR PICK-UP:** Scrap metal disposed of curbside should be put in recycle carts and be no larger than two-feet square.
- **Small Electronics and Appliances:** Limit two-feet square or smaller and less than 60 pounds. Examples include microwave ovens, toaster ovens, irons, computer equipment, TVs, and cellphones.
- **Textiles:** Place clean, dry clothing and household textiles in clear plastic bags.
- **Used Cooking Oil:** 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.

Drop these items off for free

- **Bicycles and Bike Parts**
- **Hardcover Books**
- **Styrofoam Blocks:** No packing peanuts.
- **Small Propane Cylinders:** Cylinders must be empty – no tanks.

For a fee, call 425-452-4762 for a pick-up

- **Bulky Waste:** For a fee, large appliances, such as refrigerators, freezers, stoves, dishwashers, clothes washing machines or dryers, water heaters, furniture, mattresses, and other similar large items can be picked up.
- **Construction Materials:** Call for pricing.

Update Your Account Information Online

Keeping your account information current is important for many reasons.

It allows Bellevue Utilities to:

- Contact you in case of an emergency, such as a water main break, flooding, or a boil water notice.
- More quickly inform you of a water leak. Customers are responsible for paying for wasted water use both in their home and with their private water service line.

Update your contact information at bellevuewa.gov/ContactUpdate.



Get Started Recycling Food Scraps with a FREE Kitchen Composter

Food waste and food-soiled paper make up about 30 percent of a typical household's waste. If you are putting them down the garbage disposal in your sink, you are increasing your risk of a sewage backup.

Fats, oils and grease from cooking can gather in your home's side sewer. 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 homeowner's insurance.

Avoid this potential disaster with a FREE kitchen composter! Bellevue single-family residents can start recycling food scraps with a free kitchen food waste container by calling your solid waste provider, Republic Services, at 425-452-4762.

Keep the mess down by using compostable bags in your container. Get a free sample from King County by going to kingcounty.gov and searching "Compost More, Waste Less Pledge."

Apartment and condo residents are eligible for free kitchen food waste containers if a property is signed up for organics service. If your building is, ask your property manager to call Bellevue Utilities' recycling hotline at 425-452-6932 to request containers. If not, ask your property manager to sign up for organics service and help keep more waste out of the landfill.

Why Is My Water Bill Higher in Summer?

Most people are surprised at how much water they use for summer irrigation. Your bill may also go up because Bellevue has a tiered rate structure designed to encourage conservation – the more water you use, the more it costs. Please keep this in mind when watering lawns and gardens. You may want to adopt water-saving practices for landscaping.

Smart Watering Tips

- Water infrequently, but deeply.
- Moisten the entire root area.
- Mulch planting beds to reduce water evaporation.
- Use soaker hoses or drip irrigation in plant beds.
- Match your watering schedule to weather conditions, use timers and add hose shut-off nozzles.
- Check automatic irrigation systems regularly for problems and install a rain sensor.

Get smart watering tips at bellevuewa.gov/SmartWatering.



Connect with Us with the MyBellevue App

MyBellevue allows you to connect directly with the City of Bellevue to effectively and efficiently resolve issues in our community. Use the app to report important – but not emergency – problems with water, drainage, wastewater and solid waste services around the city. MyBellevue is available in the Apple App Store and from Google Play.



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