

Paint Recycling Now Available

In April 1, Washington State launched PaintCare, a new program to recycle paint, stain and varnish. This program is a major step in protecting our local environment and diverting waste from the landfill.

PaintCare will offer drop-off locations throughout Bellevue and Washington State. There is no cost to drop off your paint; program costs are covered by a fee applied to new paint sales. (Please note: paint can only be recycled through participating locations; it is not accepted in your home recycling containers.)

Drop-off sites will accept the following items:

- ▶ House paints and primers (latex and oil-based)
- ▶ Stains
- ▶ Deck and concrete sealers
- ▶ Clear finishes (e.g. varnishes, shellac)

Paint must be in the original five-gallon or smaller containers with original label and secure lid.

What happens to the paint? Latex paint can be easily recycled into new paint in a suite of colors and can be used in other products such as landscaping materials and concrete mixtures. Paint recyclers process and sell recycled latex paint products at paint retailers and reuse stores. Oil-based paint products will be offered for reuse, collected and used as fuel, or will be disposed of as hazardous waste. In its first year, this program is expected to recycle more than 1.3 million gallons of paint!

Visit www.paintcare.org or call (855) 724-6809 to find a participating drop-off location near you!



Safe Medicine Disposal Matters

Taking back your medicines to a pharmacy drop-box or local collection site is a safe, convenient and responsible way to dispose of unused or expired medicines.

Unwanted medicines left at home can endanger family members and pets. The Washington Poison Control center reports about half of its calls concern young children poisoned by medicines found at home.

Flushing medicines down the toilet can impact water quality—wastewater treatment plants are not equipped to remove medicines from wastewater. Putting unwanted medicines in the garbage also sends them into our environment.

At home, keep medicines in a locked or secure place and out of reach of children. When finished with medications as prescribed by your doctor, or when medicines expire, please do not flush, trash, share, or continuing storing. **Instead, bring medications to a local secure dropbox.** There is no cost to use the dropbox service.

You can find a list of local dropboxes and more information on types of accepted medicines at www.medproject.org.



Safest disposal solution: take medicines to a secure local dropbox

Sustainable Summer Landscape Tips



Landscapes and gardens are the biggest source of excess water use in summer. But a beautiful, low-maintenance and water-smart landscape is within reach! Practicing these tips can help.

- ▶ **Mulch.** Adding a few inches of good mulch—leftover leaves, bark, or compost—will help keep moisture in and weeds out.
- ▶ **Avoid planting new in summer.** New plants need more water to establish roots, and hot weather adds stress. Wait for rainy seasons in spring or fall to save water and give plants the best chance to thrive.
- ▶ **Water lawns less.** Lawns only need about 1" of water a week to stay healthy through the dry months. Cut grass higher to give roots more protection from intense summer heat.
- ▶ **Check irrigation system and timer settings.** Huge water waste—and high bills—can result from improperly-set timers or broken lines. A regular system check can catch these—and make sure your system is watering plants, not pavement.
- ▶ **Water with the weather.** Early morning or late evening is best to limit evaporation. If you have an irrigation system, consider installing a rain sensor to automatically adjust to weather patterns.

You can find more sustainable gardening advice at BellevueWA.gov/natural-yard-care. Classes, videos and other resources are available through Cascade Gardener at www.cascadewater.org.

Wash Cars, not Fish!



Time to wash your car? Using a commercial car wash has big environmental benefits.

All of our storm drains lead directly to local streams and lakes. When we wash cars in driveways, streets or parking lots, car chemicals and soap can enter our waterways through storm drains, causing

water pollution and harming fish and other wildlife. **Only rain should ever go down our storm drains.**

Commercial car washes help protect our environment by reusing water and sending dirty water to the sewer system for treatment. Result: a clean car, cleaner water—and happier fish! For more tips to protect our stream health, visit BellevueWA.gov/protect-waterways.

Composting Food Scraps Helps Protect Your Sewer



Get started composting with your **FREE** compost container!

By composting your home's food waste, you help solve two big problems. You're keeping tons of valuable food scraps out of our landfills. AND you're making sure oil and grease don't get into your sewer line through your garbage disposal or sink.

Oil and grease from food scraps form clumps in sewer lines. This can lead to

restricted flow and the danger of sewer backups. Repairs on private sewer lines can cost homeowners thousands of dollars.

Composting your food scraps is an environmentally- and sewer-friendly solution. How to get started?

Single-family homes: Put food scraps with yard waste in your green outdoor container. Republic Services offers weekly collection at no extra cost in Bellevue, as well as a free kitchen composter container for your household. Get compost containers by calling 425-452-4762.

Apartment and condo residents: Contact Bellevue Utilities at 425-452-6932 or recycle@bellevuewa.gov to find out if your community is signed up for compost collection service. Communities can receive up to 2 compost carts per garbage container, collected weekly at no extra cost. The City can provide a free small kitchen compost container for individual households.

To learn more about what items can be composted and how, check your recycling guide or visit BellevueWA.gov/recycle-at-home.



Smart Water Meters

Coming Soon to Your Home!

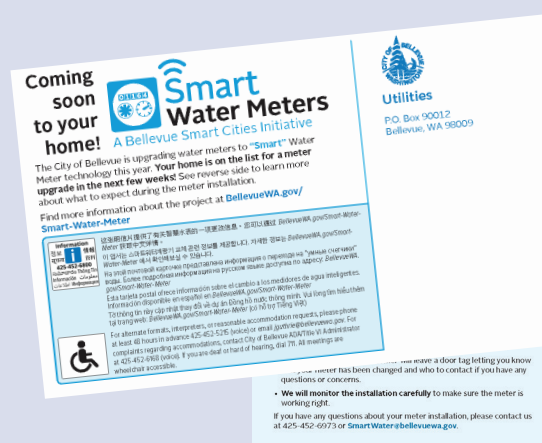
We're hard at work upgrading old water meters to new, more efficient smart meter technology.

By about mid-2022, customers across Bellevue and the Bellevue Utilities service area will have a brand new water meter with new capabilities—including early leak detection and water use data management tools.

Here are some important details to help prepare you for what's coming over the next year:

- ▶ Keystone Utility Systems (KUS) is the city's authorized contractor installing meters. You may see their trucks or crews in your neighborhood throughout the next year. Installers will always carry proper identification.
- ▶ Look for a mailed notice alerting you of approximately when installers are coming to your neighborhood. You can also track each week's planned upgrades at BellevueWA.gov/Smart-Water-Meter. Customers in apartments, condos and commercial buildings may receive notice through your property managers.
- ▶ During the upgrade, your water will be shut off for about 15 minutes. Before performing the work, the installer will knock on your door so you aren't surprised by the disruption. Installers will typically perform work between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

We're here to help answer your questions. Visit the project website at BellevueWA.gov/Smart-Water-Meter for FAQs and regular project status updates. Or contact us at SmartWater@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-6973 anytime.



Bellevue Utilities News is available online and in other languages at www.bellevuewa.gov/utilities.

可在以下网站用中文查看《贝尔维尤市公用事业新闻》(Bellevue Utilities News): www.bellevuewa.gov/utilities

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«Коммунальные новости Бельвью» (Bellevue Utilities News) имеется на русском языке по адресу www.bellevuewa.gov/utilities.

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Tin Tức Về Tiện Ích của Bellevue (Bellevue Utilities News) có bản tiếng Việt trong www.bellevuewa.gov/utilities.



General information—425-452-6932
utilities@bellevuewa.gov | utilities.bellevuewa.gov



Customer Service/Billing—425-452-6973



Drinking Water Quality—425-452-6192



24 Hour Emergencies—425-452-7840 (flooding, water main breaks, no water, sewer overflows, pollutant spills)



Republic Services (solid waste service)—425-452-4762