

## Cheers to Zero Waste Holidays

Did you know that nationwide, between November and January, consumers throw away a million tons of extra garbage each week? Consider implementing these five zero-waste practices to avoid excess waste while still making holiday memories.

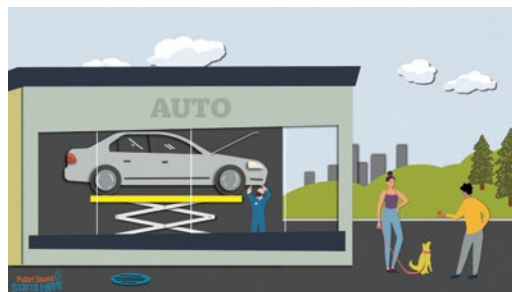
1. **Limit leftovers.** Waste less food after big holiday meals by sending guests home with leftovers in reusable containers and storing leftovers for longer-lasting freshness. See more tips for reducing food waste at [BellevueWA.gov/recycle-food-waste](https://BellevueWA.gov/recycle-food-waste).
2. **Ditch disposables.** Say no to single-use plastic straws, utensils, and water bottles. A few extra dishes can save tons of plastic waste from landfill.
3. **Flatten and recycle cardboard boxes in covered recycling carts.** This saves space, keeps cardboard clean and dry, and ensures your boxes can be made into new products.
4. **Wrap with reusables.** Save durable items like bags, boxes, and bows for second use. Make it a family game to find the most creative zero-waste wrapping!
5. **Remember to recycle when the holiday is over.** Most wrapping paper can be recycled in your curbside cart. Many organizations offer holiday light recycling collections, and you can compost your holiday tree and other greenery.

See your local recycling guide and [KingCounty.gov/green-holidays](https://KingCounty.gov/green-holidays) for more ways to enjoy a zero-waste winter holiday season.

## Don't Drip and Drive

When oil from your car leaks, it rinses into storm drains and straight into our creeks, rivers, and Puget Sound. Oil and other petroleum products are toxic to people, wildlife, and plants.

Make sure to check your vehicle for leaks regularly to protect water quality, people, and wildlife. For more information about vehicle leaks, visit [FixCarLeaks.org](https://FixCarLeaks.org). For more overall car care tips that help protect water quality, visit [PugetSoundStartsHere.org](https://PugetSoundStartsHere.org).



## Holiday and Winter Weather Solid Waste Collection

There is no garbage, recycling, or compost collection on November 24, Thanksgiving Day. Collection will shift to the following day for all Thursday and Friday customers during Thanksgiving week. The upcoming Christmas and New Year's Day holidays occur on a Saturday/Sunday and will not change any service.

If weather conditions prevent the safe collection of curbside garbage, recycling, or composting, 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. Republic Services will notify customers of changes to the pick-up schedule as quickly as possible, and alerts will be posted at [RepublicBellevue.com](https://RepublicBellevue.com).



## Do You Need Help Paying your Utility Bill?

Bellevue Utilities has several programs to help qualifying low-income residents and residents facing financial hardship. For information on qualifying and applying for these programs, visit [BellevueWA.gov/utility-relief](https://BellevueWA.gov/utility-relief), or contact us at 425-452-5285 or [utilityrelief@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:utilityrelief@bellevuewa.gov).

### Emergency Assistance Program

If you pay a Bellevue utility bill directly and are not eligible for the Utility Rate Discount Program, you may qualify for a 100 percent discount on a basic level of service for up to two bills (four months) of utility service charges if you are experiencing a one-time financial shock that interferes with your household's ability to cover basic needs.

### Utility Rate Relief Programs

The City of Bellevue offers low-income seniors (62 and older) and low-income persons with permanent disabilities a discount on their basic utility costs for water, wastewater, and drainage. Customers must meet specific residency and income guidelines. Customers who are receiving home kidney dialysis treatments may qualify for a discount on the water and wastewater required to provide those medical treatments without an income requirement.

### Rate Relief Discount Program:

If you are a low-income senior (62 years and older) or have permanent disability and pay a Bellevue utility bill, you may qualify for a rate reduction on your utility bills.

### Rate Relief Rebate Program:

If you are a low-income senior (62 years and older) or have a permanent disability living within the service area of Bellevue, you could get a rebate check for 70% of your 2021 water, wastewater, and drainage costs you previously paid through rent or other third party.

### Utility Tax Relief

This program provides utility occupation tax relief to low-income households within the Bellevue service area in the form of a rebate check from utility occupation taxes paid to the City.

## Help Keep Neighborhood Safe – Bring in Solid Waste Containers

A typical routine in our neighborhoods is placing solid waste containers at the curb on scheduled service days. However, routinely storing garbage, recycling, and compost containers next to the curb, on the sidewalk, or in a bike lane can obstruct visibility and make the shared rights of way inaccessible for drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians, as well as impede necessary city or other utility work.

Empty containers can also get knocked over and become hazards in neighborhood streets.

We encourage Bellevue residents to place containers out by 7 a.m. on their scheduled service day without blocking bike lanes or sidewalks. Containers should be removed after service, later the same day. This helps enhance the safety, accessibility, and mobility for all residents and travelers.

**Bellevue Utilities News is available online and in other languages at [BellevueWA.gov/utilities](https://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): [BellevueWA.gov/utilities](https://BellevueWA.gov/utilities)

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Tin Tức Về Tiện Ích của Bellevue (Bellevue Utilities News) có bản tiếng Việt trong [BellevueWA.gov/utilities](https://BellevueWA.gov/utilities).

**General information:** 425-452-6932  
[utilities@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:utilities@bellevuewa.gov)  
[utilities.bellevuewa.gov](https://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