



Does recycling work?

Are the materials you recycle actually being recycled? How clean, empty, and dry does something have to be to retain its recycling value?

These are common questions from customers across the region. Bottom line: 2024 recycling markets are thriving, accepted materials placed in your recycling containers are being recycled, and residents and businesses continue to benefit both the environment and the economy by recycling their plastic, paper, cardboard, glass, and metal.

Make sure to recycle right!

When in doubt, find out. Check Bellevue's recycling guidelines to learn what belongs in your recycling container. Find helpful tips at BellevueWA.gov/recycle-at-home.

Recycling must be empty, clean, and dry. It's okay if a few drops of water remain, recycling does not have to be dishwasher clean and dry, but it's important to empty all liquids to prevent mold. Remember to keep your recycling container lid closed to prevent rain or snow from getting everything wet too.

What happens to the water that runs into storm drains?

The weather is getting nice and many in our community are ready to wash the dirt from the rainy season off of the vehicles. But, washing your car at home is a dirty business. Did you know that all storm drains in Bellevue lead directly to a stream, lake or wetland?

When you wash your car in the street or a parking lot, toxic motor oil, brake pad dust, tire wear and other chemical residues – along with soap – go down storm drains, untreated, into the waterways we swim, fish and play in.

Dirty wash water contains oil, solvents, anti-freeze and toxic heavy metals such as zinc, lead and copper. Soap is a significant problem and is harmful to fish and the insects they eat. Even biodegradable soap can kill fish before it degrades.

Instead, take your car to a commercial car wash that reclaims the wash water several times before sending it to the sewer system for treatment.

Watch a fun video on how to protect our waterways at BellevueWA.gov/protect-waterways.





Traffic Advisories

There are significant construction projects happening in south Bellevue this spring and summer. Make sure to plan ahead. The City of Bellevue posts weekly traffic advisories regarding construction work that can affect travel on city streets, sidewalks, and trails.

Stay up to date on Bellevue traffic advisories at BellevueWA.gov/trafficadvisories.

Composting protects our sewers

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.

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.

Tips to Keep Compost Mess-Free

Bag it. Use a paper or approved compostable bag to store food scraps. Just toss the bag in your food and yard waste cart when it's full.

Use the news. Laying newspaper at the bottom of your cart or wrapping your scraps in newspaper helps keep your cart clean.

Chill it. Put leftovers in a container or wrap them in paper, then place them in your refrigerator until your weekly collection day.

Rinse your kitchen container and yard waste cart frequently into yard areas or sanitary sewer drains.

Cover food scraps in your cart with food-soiled paper, shredded paper, or yard waste.

Learn more about what items can be composted and how: BellevueWA.gov/recycle-food-waste.



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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

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

General information: 425-452-6932
utilities@bellevuewa.gov
BellevueWA.gov/utilities

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