



**I saw my neighbors put plastic bags in their food and yard cart. Is that ok?**

No. Plastic bags are not allowed in your food and yard waste cart. Plastic, metal and other non-organic materials don't break down in the composting process.

You may have seen your neighbors use compostable bags to store and carry their food scraps to their cart. Compostable bags look a lot like plastic bags, but are made from vegetable matter and break down into compost. There are several brands of compostable bags, including AL-Pack, Bag-to-Nature, BioBag, Biosak, EcoGuard, EcoSafe, Glad and Nature-Friendly.

Compostable bags are generally light green in color and are sold in most grocery stores next to regular trash bags.



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**I use ice cream cartons and coffee cups to store my food scraps. Can I put them in my food and yard cart?**

No. Coated paper coffee cups, milk cartons and ice cream cartons have a thin coating of plastic in them to prevent leaking. That's great while you're drinking your latte, but it's bad for compost. When you're done using them, put clean and empty cartons and cups in your recycling cart.

**Will my garbage be picked up on Thanksgiving?**

Seattle's Recycling and Disposal stations will be closed and there will be no garbage, food and yard waste or recycling collection on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 24. Thursday customers will be picked up on Friday, and Friday customers will be picked up on Saturday that week.

Collections will be on regular schedule during the weeks of Christmas and New Year's Day.

During snowy or icy weather, check your local news or [www.seattle.gov/util](http://www.seattle.gov/util) to see if there are any delays in your collection.

You can report a missed garbage, food and yard waste or recycling collection after 6 p.m. on the day it was missed online at [www.seattle.gov/util](http://www.seattle.gov/util) or by calling (206) 684-3000 the next business day.

For more information on what can be recycled, visit [www.seattle.gov/util/lookup](http://www.seattle.gov/util/lookup) or write Ask Evelyn, PO BOX 34018 Seattle, WA 98124-4018.

This information can be made available on request to accommodate people with disabilities and those who need language translation assistance. Call Seattle Public Utilities at (206) 684-3000. TDD telephone number is (206) 233-7241. Please recycle this newsletter or pass it on to a friend. Printed on recycled paper made out of 100% post-consumer waste.



# \$100 Rebates for Apartment/Condo Properties of 5+ Units

After signing up for food waste collection service, your property (of five or more units) is eligible for a Friend of Recycling and Composting (FORC) steward. A FORC can be a manager, resident, or facilities person. A FORC is your site champion who supports your food waste and recycling program by:



- Educating current and new residents about how to sort materials correctly.
- Distributing educational material and placing posters where useful.
- Monitoring collection containers to make sure items are going into the right containers.

A packet will be sent to your FORC that includes resources and a pledge. After the FORC returns the pledge to Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) a one-time FORC \$100 rebate will be credited on your property's utility bill.

To sign up a FORC, choose ONE of the following:

- Call (206) 684-7665 and speak with a SPU representative -OR-
- Go to [www.seattle.gov/util/apartmentfoodwaste](http://www.seattle.gov/util/apartmentfoodwaste) -OR-
- Call (206) 684-8717, press "1" and request an information packet

For interpretation services please call 206-684-3000.  
 如需漢口譯服務，請撥電話號碼206-684-3000。  
 용역 서비스를 원하시면 206-684-3000으로 전화하세요.  
 Wixit turyubaan arka ah ku saabsan, Fadilan la soo xariir taleefoonka: 206-684-3000.  
 Para servicios de interpretación por favor llame al 206-684-3000.  
 Para sa serbisyong tagapagpaliwanag, tumawag sa 206-684-3000.  
 Vé dich vy phien dich xin go! 206-684-3000.

**Recycling Rewards Inside!**

- ~ Kitchen container discounts
- ~ \$100 rebates for apartments
- ~ \$100,000 for communities

PRESORTED STANDARD  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 SEATTLE, WA  
 PERMIT NO. 6000

Seattle Public Utilities  
 700 5th Avenue, Suite 4900  
 Seattle, WA 98124-4018  
 PO Box 34018



# Curb your holiday Wasteline

Americans throw out 25% more trash between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day than any other time of the year. A lot of that waste is leftover food.

Think about it. For every delicious holiday meal, there's one dish that gets left cold. Green bean casserole. Mincemeat pie. Giblets. Jello salad. Oysters. Fruitcake. One person's culinary delight is another person's compost maker.

Curb your wasteline this holiday season and put your leftovers in your food and yard waste cart, where instead of going to the landfill, they'll be made into compost for local parks and gardens.

## Recycling Rewards

We know: It's cold and wet outside. Your tummy is full. You don't want to run out in the rainy darkness to dump your leftovers in the food and yard cart. We can help!

From Nov. 15 to Dec. 15, kitchen compost collectors are on sale at 10 locations throughout Seattle. Just \$12.95 plus tax, these popular pails come with a secure lid and a pack of compostable bags that keep odors in and pests out. Just the thing to help store your kitchen scraps until the storm/football game/nap is over.



Go to [www.cgcompost.com](http://www.cgcompost.com) or call 877-764-5748 for store locations and hours, or to order online and have them delivered to your door for \$18.95 plus tax and shipping.

## Recycle and Win \$50,000!

Seattle Public Utilities is partnering with CleanScapes and Waste Management, to reward businesses and residents for reducing, reusing and recycling. Visit [www.seattle.gov/util/recyclingrewards](http://www.seattle.gov/util/recyclingrewards) to learn how you can help win \$50,000 for your community.

# Stop Catalogs & Junk Mail

It's that time of year again, and holiday shopping catalogs will start filling your mailbox soon—if they haven't already! Last year, Americans received more than 20 billion catalogs.

Now there's a free and easy way to opt-out of catalogs and other junk mail. Seattle Public Utilities has created the site [www.seattle.gov/stopjunkmail](http://www.seattle.gov/stopjunkmail) with Catalog Choice, a non-profit that offers junk mail opt-out services. Just go to [www.seattle.gov/stopjunkmail](http://www.seattle.gov/stopjunkmail) and log in or set up a new account. Enter the names of the catalogs or advertising mail you don't want to get, and Catalog Choice takes over from there.



# Holiday Recycling Checklist

With the holidays just around the corner, things are going to quickly get hectic. Here's a quick reminder of where to properly dispose of your holiday trash:

What You've Got:	Where it Goes:
Fruitcake, mistletoe, turkey bones, fruit, veggies, and all other leftover food	food and yard waste
Paper napkins, coffee filters, tea bags, plain uncoated paper plates (like Chinet)	food and yard waste
Cardboard pizza boxes	<b>Greasy:</b> food and yard waste <b>Clean:</b> recycling
Plain brown paper bags	<b>Dirty:</b> food and yard waste <b>Clean:</b> recycling
Clean pie tin	recycling
Clean plastic deli/veggie trays & lids	recycling
Empty egg nog and milk cartons	recycling
Clean ice cream cartons, shiny paper plates and other coated paper containers	recycling
Clean paper, plastic and metal cups, bottles, cans, jars, tubs	recycling
Catalogs, greeting cards, envelopes	recycling
Cardboard and paper	recycling ( <i>flatten boxes</i> )
Clean aluminum foil	recycling
Glossy/shiny shopping bags	recycling ( <i>bring your own reusable bag</i> )
Gift wrap	reuse OR recycling ( <i>don't burn—inks are toxic</i> )
Plastic bags grocery/shopping: produce/Ziploc/potato chip:	recycling ( <i>bundle</i> ) garbage
Fat, oil, grease	garbage ( <i>put in a lidded container first</i> )
Plastic packaging	garbage
Ribbons and bows	reuse OR garbage
Burned out holiday lights	garbage ( <i>look for special recycling locations</i> )
Plastic cutlery	garbage
Bottle caps and corks	garbage ( <i>lids wider than 3" can be recycled</i> )
Candy wrappers and cling wrap	garbage
Styrofoam packaging (see below)	garbage OR drop-off locations* ( <i>bag it to prevent litter</i> )
Alkaline batteries (see below)	garbage OR drop-off locations*
Old electronics, Styrofoam, rechargeable and alkaline batteries and other items	*Recycle at drop-off locations. To find a location near you, call (206) 684-3000 or go to <a href="http://www.seattle.gov/util">www.seattle.gov/util</a> and click on "How do I dispose of this?"

Remember, you can place extra recyclables out for collection at no additional cost. Just place in a cardboard box next to your recycling cart on collection day.

# Compost Holiday Greens

Seattle residents can compost trees and greens free of charge between December 26, 2011 and January 9, 2012.

## At Recycling & Disposal Stations:

Trees should not exceed eight feet in length and must be free of decoration so they can be turned into compost for local parks and gardens. Trunks should not exceed four inches in diameter. The stations will accept up to three trees per vehicle for free. Find station locations and hours at [www.seattle.gov/util](http://www.seattle.gov/util) or (206) 684-3000.

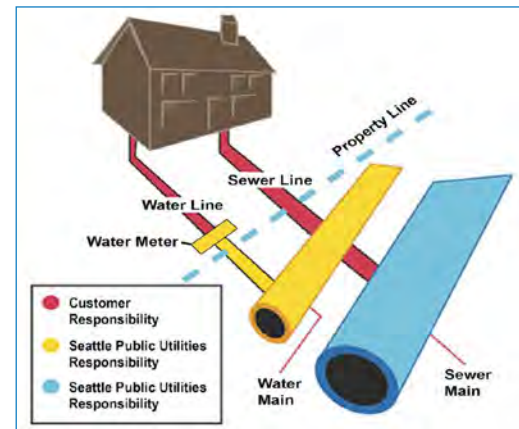
## At the Curb:

Food and yard waste subscribers can put trees and greens out on their regular collection day. Cut trees into sections, six feet long or shorter, with branches trimmed to less than four feet to fit into the collection trucks. Bundle each section with sisal string or twine (not plastic). Decorated, flocked and plastic trees are not recyclable, and will be charged as extra garbage.

## At Apartments:

Multi-family buildings can put out one tree next to each food and yard waste cart at no extra charge each collection day.

# Are You Prepared?



## Lessen Your Chance of a Sewer Back-up

Did you know you are responsible for the maintenance of your side sewer? A side sewer is the section of pipe that carries wastewater from your home or building's plumbing system to the public sewer main (usually located under the street). If your side sewer is clogged, it may not be able to handle rain that gets in it during storm

season, causing a sewage backup in your home. Keep your sewer line clear and repair it if needed. Check out our brochure "Troubleshooting Your Side Sewer" at [www.seattle.gov/util/sidesewer](http://www.seattle.gov/util/sidesewer).

## Holiday Cooking and FOG

Remember that Fats, Oil and Grease (FOG) can wreck the holiday spirit by clogging up your side sewer. Always put them in a lidded container and then dispose in the garbage rather than down the drain.

For more info, check out the fun video "A Side Sewer Saga" at [www.seattle.gov/util/sidesewer](http://www.seattle.gov/util/sidesewer).

## Lessen Your Chance of Flooding

- Keep leaves and debris out of drains, ditches, culverts or ravines on and near your property.
- Clean and maintain your gutters and downspouts, and direct flows from downspouts away from your foundation but not toward your neighbors.
- Repair pavement settling on your property that affects drainage.
- Ensure that retaining walls are properly functioning.
- Create "flow paths" in your yard where water can flow safely during a storm.
- Seal walls in basements with waterproofing coating.
- If you have floors below street level, consider installing a sump pump.

## Go Online for More Info

- Seattle Public Utilities has lots of great info at [www.seattle.gov/util/storm](http://www.seattle.gov/util/storm)
- Email questions to [SPUfloodquestions@seattle.gov](mailto:SPUfloodquestions@seattle.gov)

# Green Party Planning

'Tis the season for get-togethers with family and friends—and where there's a party you'll find food. And where there's food you'll find food packaging—an abundance of plastic and coated-paper containers and beverage cups.

But it's different this holiday season—it's not garbage anymore!

When empty and clean, all rigid plastic food containers go in your recycling cart. Paper coffee cups? Clear cold beverage containers? Just empty and recycle. Clean and empty shiny coated paper containers go in the recycling.

Paper napkins and wooden chopsticks should go in your food and yard waste cart. Dirty, uncoated or plain paper plates go in the food and yard cart.

Just about the only food packaging that still goes in garbage are Styrofoam trays, plastic straws, cutlery, wrappers and condiment packets.

More and more packaging is becoming compostable. Look for a brown stripe on clear plastic cups and check our website at [www.seattle.gov/util](http://www.seattle.gov/util) to be sure.

# Free Auto Leaks Class Oil and Water Don't Mix: Fix That Leak!

Keep oil and other car fluid leaks from harming our local waterways and wildlife. Join the experts at South Seattle Community College's Automotive Technology Program for a FREE auto leaks class. Learn where most leaks occur and how to fix them.

Classes are offered on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the following dates:

- December 10, 2011
- January 14, 2012
- February 11, 2012
- March 10, 2012

Email [anthony.matlock@seattle.gov](mailto:anthony.matlock@seattle.gov) or call 206-386-9746 to register.

Visit [www.seattle.gov/util/cartips](http://www.seattle.gov/util/cartips) for more information on properly maintaining your automobile to protect our waterways.

To report flooding and sewer back-up emergencies, call (206) 386-1800.

# Free Toilets for Income-Qualified Homeowners

Qualified customers in Seattle can get up to two free water-efficient toilets and have them installed by a licensed plumber for free if they meet our income guidelines.

Toilets are the main source of water use in the home, accounting for approximately 30% of residential indoor water use. Most households can easily save thousands of gallons of water and more than \$100 a year on utility bills just by installing these efficient toilets.

To qualify for free toilets, properties must be located within Seattle Public Utilities' service area, must have existing toilets installed before 1994, and be income-qualified. For example, a household of four making \$4,813 or less a month (\$57,756 annually) qualifies.

Installation and recycling of your old toilets are also provided free of charge. For more information, call (206) 448-5751 or visit [www.seattle.gov/util](http://www.seattle.gov/util) and search "low income toilet."

