



## What things do we still throw away in the landfill?

Seattle residents recycle more than half of all their waste, but 50% of what we send to the landfill could have been recycled or composted.

More than 30% of Seattle's garbage is food, food-soiled paper napkins and towels, leaves and grass which belong in the food & yard waste cart, so they can be made into compost for local parks and gardens.

Nearly 8,000 tons of disposable diapers are sent to the landfill every year. Customers who want to reduce waste might consider cloth diaper services. For more information, look in the yellow pages or on the web under "diaper services."

Seattle residents throw away more than 4,000 tons of textiles and clothing every year. You can donate old shoes and clothes — even in poor condition — to most major second-hand stores.

Households still throw away more than 5,000 tons of recyclable aluminum, metal, paper, and cardboard every year. Why waste a good thing? Recycle!

**Need to get rid of something?** Many items can be donated or recycled at convenient locations near you. Visit our database at [www.seattle.gov/util/lookup](http://www.seattle.gov/util/lookup) to find out the best disposal options for your unwanted items.

## What sort of things belong in the garbage?

Good question! Here's a quick list of common stuff that still belongs in the garbage:

GARBAGE	
Plastic bags and pet waste NEVER go in the food & yard waste cart.	Hygiene products, especially "flushable" wipes, which clog city sewage pipes.
Ziploc and dirty plastic bags with food in them.	Pet poop and hair – double bag and tie securely.
Food wrappers.	Ribbons & bows.
Stickers on fruit and vegetables.	Mirrors, broken ceramics and glass or burned-out non-fluorescent light bulbs.
Dirty take-out containers. (Clean containers can be recycled.)	CDs & DVDs.
Cooking fats, oils, and grease – in a secure container.	Paint cans – Empty, lid removed.
	Styrofoam (Bag foam peanuts and tie securely).

# Compost Days Offers Big Discounts

March 15 through April 15

Compost Days is here, offering big discounts on compost as a "thank you" for helping make Seattle's curbside composting program a success! Last year Seattle diverted more than 125,000 tons of food and yard waste from the landfill and helped turn it into compost for local parks and gardens.

**Hurry!** Now through April 15, your local Fred Meyer store is also offering up to 25% off kitchen compost containers. Learn more at [www.CompostDays.com](http://www.CompostDays.com).

## Free Bag of Compost

Buy 2 bags, get a 3rd FREE!



Receive a free bag of Cedar Grove compost when you buy two bags at any participating retailer. Offer ends April 15, 2015. Learn more at [CompostDays.com](http://CompostDays.com).



CODE: SPRING117

## Tips and Programs for Seattle Residents

Spring 2015

Seattle  
Public  
Utilities

# CurbWaste & Conserve



## Compost Food.

### It's Not Garbage Anymore!

Back in 1989, Seattle became one of the first cities in the country to start a citywide recycling program. Recyclables have been prohibited from Seattle's garbage since 2004. Seattle businesses and residents have been composting their food scraps for nearly 10 years.

Today, Seattle is a national recycling leader, and diverts more than 400,000 tons of food, yard waste, paper, plastic, glass, cardboard and aluminum from the landfill every year through recycling and composting.

However, Seattle still throws 100,000 tons of coffee grounds, banana peels, chicken bones and apple cores and other food scraps in the garbage every year — enough to fill more than 11,000 garbage trucks! We spend \$13 million every year to send garbage — half of which could have been recycled or composted — to a landfill in Eastern Oregon.

Why waste a good thing? As of January 1, the City of Seattle no longer allows food and compostable paper, including food-soiled cardboard pizza boxes, paper napkins and paper towels, in the garbage.

## Garbage Fines Begin July 1

Starting July 1, fines will be issued to businesses and residents whose garbage containers contain too much food, paper, cardboard, cans, bottles, jars or yard waste.

Go to [www.seattle.gov/util/](http://www.seattle.gov/util/) or call **(206) 684-3000** to learn more and receive tips and advice on how to get started recycling or composting today.

## Property Manager Assistance

Free resources are available to help businesses, apartments and condos comply with the new food waste requirements.

**Apartments/Condos:** Educational materials, a one-time \$100 utility bill credit, and a training which qualifies your property for free kitchen food waste containers for every unit. Find out more at: [www.seattle.gov/util/apartmentfoodwaste](http://www.seattle.gov/util/apartmentfoodwaste)

**Businesses:** Get free bins, posters, stickers and other assistance to set up your building's composting and recycling program at: [www.seattle.gov/Util/ GreenYourBusiness](http://www.seattle.gov/Util/GreenYourBusiness).

The information in this newsletter 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.

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

SPRING CLEAN  
STARTS APRIL 1!

Get more information: Visit [www.seattle.gov/util/lookup](http://www.seattle.gov/util/lookup), follow Ask Evelyn on Facebook [www.facebook.com/EvelyntheEnvelope](http://www.facebook.com/EvelyntheEnvelope) or write to Ask Evelyn, PO BOX 34018 Seattle, WA 98124-4018.



## Damaged Clothes Aren't Garbage Anymore

Give **ALL** your clothes, shoes and linens for reuse or recycling

Sadly torn, badly worn or even stained items are now taken by most large collectors in our area, so long as they're not wet, mildewed, or contaminated with hazardous materials.

Many other items can be given in any condition, including stuffed animals, purses, belts, and other accessories. Even single shoes, socks and gloves that are normally paired-up can be matched with other "singles" and worn by people who otherwise would not have those items to wear.

Damaged clothes and linens aren't trash—they can have a second life as new products such as wiping rags; padding for carpet, mattresses and upholstery; and insulation material for automobiles and appliances.

Please do not place these items in your curbside recycling. Choose from several drop off or pick up organizations at [www.kingcounty.gov/threadcycle](http://www.kingcounty.gov/threadcycle).



## \$75 Toilet Rebates

Take advantage of a \$75 Rebate! Customers replacing pre-2004 water-guzzling toilets with the latest Premium **1.06 gallons** per flush models will receive a \$75 rebate per toilet replaced (limit 2 per household).

Find local retailers that may stock or can order 1.06 gallon per flush model toilets at [www.savingwater.org/rebates](http://www.savingwater.org/rebates) along with the list of qualifying models. Check there or call **(206) 615-1282** for complete details about the program or to download the application.



## Garden Products: How Do You Choose?



**Other garden questions?** Call the Garden Hotline, Monday-Saturday, 9am-5pm at **(206) 633-0224**.

Choosing safer products and practices helps keep your family, pets, local waterways and Puget Sound safer and cleaner.

**You face a wall of gardening options.** What can you use that won't harm other living things? We can help you find safer products.

**Download the Grow Smart, Grow Safe® app for free on the App Store.™** Search over 1000 garden products ranked low, medium or high hazard based on how they affect people, pets & wildlife, water quality and aquatic life.

No iPhone? Get the same information at [www.GrowSmartGrowSafe.org](http://www.GrowSmartGrowSafe.org). A Grow Smart, Grow Safe® Android app is under development.

## THINK SPRING – In the Garden

- ✓ Act now for a beautiful yard that is easy on you and the environment!
- ✓ Mulch your garden beds after spring weeding to limit weeds and prepare for the warmer weather ahead.
- ✓ Plant new plants through mid-May; otherwise wait until fall. Use the 'right plant in the right place' for plants that thrive in your yard's conditions with less maintenance.
- ✓ If your lawn needs it, now is the time to aerate, dethatch, and overseed.
- ✓ Sharpen the blades on your mulching mower and mow high (two inches) for a better looking, healthier lawn.
- ✓ If you want to fertilize your lawn, fertilize in May with a 'natural organic' or 'slow-release' product. Don't fertilize again until September.



**MORE YARD TIPS:**  
[www.savingwater.org](http://www.savingwater.org)

**FREE ANSWERS TO YOUR GARDENING QUESTIONS:**  
**(206) 633-0224** [www.gardenhotline.org](http://www.gardenhotline.org)  
[www.facebook.com/SavvyGardenerNews](http://www.facebook.com/SavvyGardenerNews)



## Spring Clean Your Neighborhood!

**It's time for Spring Clean,** Seattle's premier community cleanup event. Seattle Public Utilities invites you and your neighbors to participate April 1—May 31. Help pick up litter, stencil storm drains, paint out graffiti, or remove invasive plants in your community. All Spring Clean projects are on public property. Volunteers receive free litter cleanup bags, gloves, safety vests, and waste disposal permits.

**REGISTER ONLINE OR BY PHONE:**  
[www.seattle.gov/util/SpringClean](http://www.seattle.gov/util/SpringClean) **(206) 233-7187**

## Don't Drip and Drive: Fix That Leak!

### Attend a FREE Auto Leaks Workshop – a \$125 value!

Get your car inspected by a certified mechanic. Find out if you have any leaks and identify the source of the leaks. A leaky car isn't reliable, and it's harmful to Puget Sound. Learn more at [www.seattle.gov/util/AutoLeaks](http://www.seattle.gov/util/AutoLeaks).

Classes are from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Choose from these dates at South Seattle College in West Seattle:

- ▶ May 16, June 13, July 18
- ▶ New! Spanish Language Class: April 18.

**EMAIL OR CALL TO REGISTER:**  
[SPU\\_EPTResources@seattle.gov](mailto:SPU_EPTResources@seattle.gov)  
**(206) 615-1222**

## Size Matters

### Did you know?

- ✓ There is no charge for extra recycling. If your cart gets full, you can put extra recycling next to your cart in a sturdy bin, box or 32-gal. can.
- ✓ Homeowners have five garbage can sizes to choose from. From 10 gal. to 96 gal. cans, you save more on your garbage bill when you compost and recycle more.
- ✓ Residents have their choice of three food & yard cart sizes: 13 gal, 32 gal and 96 gal. Food and yard waste is picked up weekly, so you might consider downsizing to a smaller, easier to manage cart if your current cart isn't very full.

**TO CHANGE A CAN SIZE:**  
[www.seattle.gov/util](http://www.seattle.gov/util)  
**(206) 684-3000**