

King County waives disposal fees for flood-damaged debris, Dec. 13-16

The King County Council approved Executive Ron Sims' proposal to waive disposal fees at solid waste handling facilities December 13-16 for county residents with flood-damaged debris.

The free disposal of flood-damaged items applies to residents of King County outside of the cities of Seattle and Milton, which are not part of the King County solid waste handling system.

To qualify for the free disposal offer, King County residents need to provide acceptable proof of residence such as a current utility bill or other piece of mail containing the resident's current address. The program is for King County residents with flood-related debris only. Businesses will continue to be charged regular disposal fees.

Only flood-related debris will be disposed at no charge; split loads of mixed flood-related debris and regular solid waste will be charged at the regular solid waste disposal rate. Loads will be inspected by Solid Waste Division staff, who have the right to limit quantities disposed without charge.

Standard waste acceptance rules will apply (for example, computers, monitors, TVs and cell phones are not accepted at transfer stations) and all loads would need to be properly secured; unsecured loads will be subject to extra fees.

Details on the free debris acceptance program will be available on the King County Solid Waste Division Web site, at <http://www.metrokc.gov/dnrp/swd/> or by calling 206-296-4466, toll free, 1-800-325-6165, ext. 6-4466, TTY Relay: 711.



(206) 546-1700 www.cityofshoreline.com

Flood Recovery

TIPS & UPDATES

DECEMBER 7, 2007

Report damage to King County

The King County Office of Emergency Management is requesting that King County residents and businesses who suffered wind and/or flood-related losses to their primary home or business from the morning of December 2 onward report their damages. The toll-free hotline is 1-800-523-5044 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. weekdays. Due to a high volume of calls there may be delays in answering so we encourage you to report damages online at <http://www.metrokc.gov/prepare/>.

This information is being collected to assist Washington State Emergency Management Division in requesting federal assistance because of this disaster. It may be several weeks before a determination is made by officials to what disaster relief programs may be available. This reporting of damages is not a guarantee that residents will receive assistance. Should a federal declaration be announced for this weather event, additional information will be provided on how property owners are to file claims with FEMA.

HELPFUL WEBSITES:

Visit these sites for detailed flood recovery information

King County Emergency Management: <http://www.metrokc.gov/prepare/>

Washington Emergency Management: <http://www.emd.wa.gov>

FEMA: <http://www.fema.gov/hazard/flood/index.shtm>

Centers for Disease Control: <http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/floods/>

King County Libraries offer free internet access. Call or visit the Shoreline Library, 345 NE 175th Street, (206) 362-7550, or the Richmond Beach Library, 19601 21st Avenue NW, (206) 546-3522, for more details.



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Shoreline, Washington 98133
(206) 546-1700
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What to do after the flood

Flood dangers do not end when the water begins to recede. Listen to your radio, TV, or NOAA Weather Radio and don't return home until authorities indicate it is safe to do so. Remember to help your neighbors who may require special assistance – infants, elderly people, and people with disabilities. The following safety tips should be taken prior to you entering your home.

Inspect the foundation of your home for cracks or other damage. Examine walls, floors, doors, and windows to make sure that the building is not in danger of collapsing.

- Watch for loose plaster and ceilings that could fall.
- Stay out of buildings if floodwaters remain around the building.
- Take pictures of the damage – both to the house and its contents for insurance claims.
- Throw away food – including canned goods – that has come in contact with floodwaters.
- Pump out flooded basements gradually (about one-third of the water per day) to avoid structural damage.
- Service damaged septic tanks, cesspools, pits, and leaching systems as soon as possible. Damaged sewage systems are health hazards.
- Check for sewage and water line damage. If you suspect sewage lines are damaged avoid using the toilets and call a plumber. If water pipes are damaged, contact the water company (Seattle Public Utilities at 206-684-5800 or Shoreline Water at 206-362-8100) and avoid the water from the tap.

FINDING HELP

Check your local directory for businesses that specialize in recovery services, damage repairs, debris removal and general contracting.



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Beware of flood-related scams

Attorney General Rob McKenna cautions Washington residents to beware of possible flood-related scams including fraudulent home repair offers and charity appeals.

The first con artists on the scene are usually questionable contractors who promise immediate or cheap home repair and cleanup. Some of these workers are from out-of-state and are not registered to do business in Washington. They demand money up front and never do the work, do a shoddy job or require additional money once the job starts.

All contractors who do construction work in Washington must be registered with the state Department of Labor and Industries, post a bond and carry general liability insurance coverage. McKenna said whenever possible, homeowners should work with a local contractor they know and trust.

Check with Labor and Industries to ensure a contractor you intend to hire is properly registered. Search online at www.contractors.lni.wa.gov or call 1-800-647-0982. Visit <http://www.atg.wa.gov> for more details.

Saving photographs

The following tips are offered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC) and the National Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Property (NIC) to assist victims when they return to their homes and begin the difficult task of cleaning up after a flood.

Damaged photographs for which there are no negatives should receive attention first. Once photographs have stuck together or become moldy, saving them may not be possible. Handle wet photos carefully; the surface may be fragile. Wet photos may be rinsed in clean water (if needed) and sealed in a plastic garbage bag with a tie or a Zip-Lock type plastic bag. If possible, put wax paper between each photo. If a freezer is available, freeze the photos immediately. Later, photos may be defrosted, separated and air-dried.

If no freezer or refrigerator is available, rinse wet photos in clean water and dry them, face up, in a single layer on a clean surface (a table, window screen or clean plastic laid out on the ground). Avoid drying the photos in direct sunlight. Don't worry if the photos curl as they dry. A photo expert can be contacted later about flattening them.