

How Do I?

Watertown Department of Public Works



124 Orchard Street, Monday through Friday 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM

Form of Payment accepted at Public Works: Cash, Check or Money Order

Telephone: 617-972-6420

<http://www.watertowndpw.org/>

Recycle Center is located at 76 Stanley Ave., Accessible from Green River Way

Friday and Saturday 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM Watertown Residents Only! No Businesses

PLASTIC BAGS ARE NOT RECYCLABLE!!

NO PLASTIC BAGS IN YOUR RECYCLING OR AT THE RECYCLE CENTER!

Place containers at the opening of your driveway for pickup, avoiding parked cars.

All trash and recycling must be in the container! No overflow. Flatten boxes to save space.

Bag all trash, do not bag recycling products!

- A legal holiday will delay trash and/or recycling by one day –

Construction debris AND miscellaneous pieces of wood or carpet will not be collected by the Town of Watertown, curbside or at the recycle center.

The Town is not responsible for a cleanout or moving in or out of an apartment / house. Additional trash and recycling must be handled by the individuals involved. Any extra moving/packing boxes must go to the recycle center. There are no extra pick-ups.

Household Furniture / Burnable Bulk Items – Each week on your regular trash day 2 large items may be left curbside per household: **Couches, chairs, tables, book cases, mattresses and box springs, dressers.** If you have a **sectional couch**, you must put out 2 pieces per week. Do not disassemble any furniture. No miscellaneous pieces of wood.

Mattresses' - Place mattresses and box springs out on your regular trash day, this is considered a "burnable bulk item".

Address Change and/or a Name Change on a water/sewer bill requires the owner **listed on the water/sewer account** to go to Public Works with identification and fill out a form. If that is not possible to go to the DPW in person, a notarized letter stating the request will suffice. **Changing the name on a water/sewer account requires proof of ownership, i.e., a deed or a document naming the Trust / trustee. This is a requirement of Public Works!**

White Good stickers must be purchased at Public Works; there is a curbside pickup every Friday! The sticker must be purchased before Thursday by noon for the Friday pick up. Sticker cost is \$20.00 per item (cash, check or money order, debit cards are not accepted).

"White Goods" sticker consists of: stove, refrigerator (remove the door, it's the law), freezer, air conditioner, dehumidifier, humidifier, dish washer, washer machine, dryer, hot water heater and microwave

Final Water Reads are necessary when you sell your property, if the owner is dealing with a real estate agent, the agent must call the Department of Public Works to schedule the appointment, to avoid scheduling duplication. If the homeowner is selling the property privately, either the attorney or the homeowner must call.

The fee is \$25.00 when scheduled 7 working days out from the original telephone call and \$40.00 for less than the 7 working days. When scheduling the final read, the new owner's name and the mailing address must be available. This information is all part of the billing process, at this point, DPW now has the new owner's name and mailing address for the water/sewer bill to be mailed to the proper owner.

Once the meter is read the paperwork must be picked up the following work day at the DPW, 124 Orchard Street. Public Works does not do final water reads on Thursdays.

An estimated water/sewer read could possibly mean a problem with the electronics and must be investigated by the Public Works meter reader. If you receive an "estimated" water/sewer bill, please call the Water Department at 617-972-6420.

Yard Waste consists of leaves, grass clippings, weeds, twigs and brush, no dirt or rocks. Branches should be bundled in 3 foot lengths, no more than 3 inches in diameter. Do not use plastic bags, place debris in paper bags or loosely in a trash barrel, not in the town totes.

Excess recycling or yard waste may be dropped off at the Recycle Center year round.

Fluorescent Bulbs and Mercury may be dropped off at the Recycle Center **AND** the DPW.

Textiles are collected at the Recycle Center [click here for textile list](#)

Electronics may be dropped off at the Recycle Center: i.e., tapes, CD's, cell phones, hard drives, key boards, printers, fax machines, cassette tapes and VHS tapes.

TV's and computer monitors are collected curbside every Friday. Please contact the Department of Public Works in advance, (call before Thursday by noon to schedule a pick up that Friday) at 617-972-6420. These items may also be dropped off at the recycle center.

Hard Plastics such as kiddie pools, Tyke toys, and resin outdoor furniture may be dropped off at the Recycle Center. **There is no curb side collection for hard plastics.**

Batteries - Alkaline Batteries- These are your traditional AAA, AA, C, D and 9 volt batteries MAY BE DISPOSED OF IN YOUR REGULAR TRASH. **Rechargeable Batteries-** may be dropped off at the recycle center, Radio Shack or Staples. **Lithium, button cell batteries & Nicad** batteries are hazardous and may be dropped off at the Department of Public Works, 124 Orchard St., Watertown, recycle center or Atlantic Battery at 309 Main St., Watertown.

Fire Extinguishers- Contact Keane Fire and Safety Equipment, 1500 Main Street, Waltham, MA. 781-899-6565, extinguishers will be picked up for a \$10.00 fee.

Gas Grills and Treadmills must go to the Recycle Center in the "mixed metals dumpster". Remove the tank on the grill prior to drop off.

Propane Tanks – If not completely empty - contact the Health Department (617-972-6446). Pizzi Farm market & Deli, Waltham 781-891-1032 collects empty tanks. **GRILLS** may be dropped off at the recycle center.

Lawn Mowers & Snow Blowers- Remove all the fluids (leave the caps off) and bring to the Recycle Center.

Hazardous Waste – To dispose of oil based paint and stains etc., call the Health Department at 617-972-6446.

Latex Paint- Should be dried out completely and placed in your trash toter double bagged. To dry out the latex paint, leave the cover off until it dries or you may add kitty litter to speed up the process of solidification.

Plastic Bags - You can take your plastic bags back to the supermarket for recycling, no plastic bags recycled at the curb or at the recycle center.

Automobile Batteries – Atlantic Battery, 309 Main St., Watertown, MA 617-924-2868

Automobile Parts – Carroll's Used Auto Parts, Lexington 781-861-6060 AND Schiavone Brothers Salvage, Newton 617-332-9074

GLASS – Colored and clear food and beverage containers, sauce jars, and condiment containers, liquor and wine bottles (remove the cork). You do not have to remove labels. No light bulbs, pyrex or ceramics. Fluorescent light bulbs may be dropped off at the Department of Public Works or the recycle center.

PAPER – newspapers/inserts, magazines, paperback books, catalogs, junk mail, phone books, brochures and office paper (any color) and window envelopes, staples are ok. **No soiled napkins, paper towels or paper plates, coffee cups and hard cover books.**

CARDBOARD – Corrugated cardboard, file folders, poster board, frozen food boxes, cereal boxes, egg cartons, paper towel rolls, and shoe boxes are all collected curb side and at the recycle center. **No pizza boxes! No wax coated cartons, i.e. the wax milk/juice cartons.**

PLASTICS – (plastic bottles, jars, jugs & tubs – empty, rinse & replace caps) water, soda, detergent bottles and plastic milk jugs (not the wax coated cartons). **Plastics #5** Note: includes yogurt cups, hummus tubs or cottage cheese containers and medicine bottles. **No Styrofoam even if marked with a #6! Plastic Bottles replace the cap then recycle.**

METALS – Will only be accepted at the recycle center not at the curb. No metal material at the curb will be collected.

ALUMINUM, BEVERAGE CANS & FOOD CANS – All collected curbside and at the recycle center.

Compost Bins may be purchased at Public Works. Bins are \$40.00, you must call DPW at 617-972-6420 to schedule a 24 hour notice prior to pick up (cash, check or money order, debit cards are not accepted).

Rain Barrels may be purchased at Public Works, \$65.00 and the drain pipe diverter would be an additional \$16.00 totaling \$81.00. The diverter is optional. Rain Barrels reduce runoff.

Low Water Pressure or discolored water may be called into Public Works, 617-972-6420.

Life Line Discounts must be renewed annually at the Department of Public Works, **homeowner occupancy is required.**

Christmas trees are picked up curb side on your trash day and chipped for recycling the month of January, no ornaments or plastic bags.

Hydrant flushing begins mid September annually

Street Lights that are not working or working intermittently or damaged should be reported (along with the pole number) to the Department of Public Works

MWRA water sources, the Quabbin and Wachusett Reservoirs contain no lead!

Sewer Blockage Prevention

Sewerage backing up through the sewer system in your home or business is a very unpleasant situation. However, there are steps you can take to prevent it from happening to you.

A number of causes could be responsible for the sewer blockage.

Some of the causes include:

Kitchen grease, disposable diapers, sanitary napkins, and even at the accumulation of some types of cleaning materials and detergents can lead to a blockage.

Tree roots are a big problem, especially with older sewer lines, as they will grow through cracks in the line to seek water.

Illegal hookups to the sewer will allow excess water into the lines. Rain gutters and sump pumps should never be hooked into the sewer system. The Town's sewer system is only designed to accommodate a certain amount of water, and rainwater, during periods of heavy rain. Illegal hookups overload the system and cause problems.

Hopefully you will never have a problem with a sewer blockage. However, if you do, you can minimize the damage to your property by taking the following preventive measures:

1. Do make sure you have a sewer cleanout and that it is readily accessible
2. Do consider having a plumber install a backflow valve, inspect and maintain it regularly

All existing or new building drains from plumbing fixtures liable to backflow from a DPW sewer, or a private sewer connected to DPW sewer, shall be required to have backwater valves installed at the owner's expense. Any plumbing fixture located at the elevation below the top of the manhole on the DPW sewer serving the fixture shall be considered to be liable to backflow. Backflow valves shall be installed in accordance with 248 CMR Section 2.09(4) of the Uniform State Plumbing Code.

Splitting a Water Service

A home owner may split a service by adding a second water meter. The town supplies the meter (\$250 fee) and the homeowner's plumber would be responsible for the installation.

To split the service the house must have a legal address for each unit, i.e., a two family must have 10 – 12 Main Street, the owner would not be able to split the service on 10 Main Street.

To request an additional number on a house the owner must submit a letter to the Superintendent of Public Works, Gerald S. Mee, Jr., 124 Orchard St., Watertown stating what they think may be the household number. Public Works will notify the owner once approved by the department.

The town does not supply or recommend a plumber; that is the responsibility of the homeowner.

Public Works strongly recommends that the homeowner have the house inspected by a certified plumber prior to splitting the service. Once established that the split service is feasible (many times due to individual plumbing issues the expense may not be worth it to the homeowner) the homeowner, not the plumber, must fill out the application at the Department of Public Works and pay the \$250 at that time. Cash, check or money order will be accepted.

The town supplies the meter. Your plumber must give a 24 hour notice to the Water Division prior to delivery of the meter. The Water Division will verify the service is able to be shut off at the curb THEN schedule an appointment with your plumber for installation.