



# NEWS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Public Works offers tips to prepare for fall storms

EVERETT, Wash. – With the return of fall weather, City of Everett Public Works offers tips to help community members prepare for and minimize damage from heavy seasonal storms that can cause flooding.

### What to do now or before a storm

- Identify nearby trees that might fall in a windstorm. If possible, take action to remove them. A professional arborist can help you determine if a tree is likely to fall.
- Avoid piling yard waste like fallen leaves and sticks in your yard, on the sidewalk or in the street where it could wash into City drains. Collect it in a yard waste bin or other container.
- Use a rake or broom to remove leaves and debris from the grates of storm drain catch basins and inlets. Place the collected material in your yard waste bin or other container.
- Consider reaching out to neighbors who might need help with their yard.
- Extend downspouts at least four feet away from your home's foundation. Do not connect downspouts to your side sewer or direct the flow to sidewalks.
- If you have a backwater valve, check to make sure it is working and seated properly. View the City's [backwater valve maintenance video](#).
- Watch the City of Everett [fall stormwater tips video](#).

### What to do during a storm

- If an inlet or catch basin grate appears to be blocked by debris, try to safely clear a channel to provide a path for the runoff.
- If you have a backwater valve and there has been heavy rainfall in a short period of time, wait 10-15 minutes after the rain subsides before using water fixtures (toilets, dishwashers, sinks, showers, washing machines, etc.) in your home. This lets the water drain and reduces the chance of flooding.
- If you are concerned about controlling runoff into your property, sandbags may help. Bring your own shovel to one of the free self-service [sandbag locations, located](#) at 4015 Railway Avenue and 11221 Silver Lake Road.

- To report water, sewer, or other storm related problems, call the City of Everett's 24-hour dispatch at 425-257-8821.

### **What to do if your basement floods**

- First and foremost, mitigate and protect your property.
- Call Public Works 24-hour dispatch at 425-257-8821.
- Carefully document the site by taking photographs and itemizing all items to provide a complete description of everything.
- Remove all wet items, including the carpet if necessary.
- Get the area dried out before odors and/or mold becomes an issue.
- The City recommends hiring a professional cleaning company to clean and disinfect. If you choose to do it yourself, please see the [Department of Health's fact sheet on cleaning a basement](#).
- If you believe the City of Everett is at fault for your basement flooding, you can [file a claim for damages](#).

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