

Currents

Henry F. Vitale, Executive Director

July | August 2016

Do's and Don'ts: How to Use and Safely Dispose of Pesticides and Fertilizers

Insecticides and fertilizers help a garden grow and flourish. When used properly, these chemicals can protect plants from damage. When disposed of improperly, chemicals can pollute runoff and ultimately contaminate our waterways. To use fertilizers and pesticides properly, you need to know the do's and don'ts of their use.

Things to Do

- ✓ Follow label instructions carefully.
- ✓ Use only the amount specified on the label. Excess chemicals can wash into local waterways.
- ✓ Bring any remaining chemicals to a City of Boston Household Hazardous Waste event for proper disposal. For more info, visit www.cityofboston.gov/publicworks/wastereduction/hazardous.asp.

Important Don'ts

- ✗ Don't let these chemicals run into a catch basin.
- ✗ Don't dispose of remaining chemicals with your trash.
- ✗ Don't water right after applying these chemicals, unless the product's directions tell you to do so.
- ✗ Don't use these chemicals right before it rains or when it's windy.



Get Your Free Water Conservation Kit

Order a **free water conservation kit** from BWSC, and kick your home water conservation efforts into high gear. The kit includes:

- Kitchen and bathroom faucet aerators
- A low-flow replacement showerhead
- A water efficiency gauge to test your showerheads and sinks
- Dye tablets to check for toilet leaks

To order your kit (Boston residents only), go to www.bwsc.org or call us at 617-989-7000.



Free Water Conservation Kit

WE ARE ALL CONNECTED

Let's protect Boston's waterways

Keep Our City Safe: Report Open Fire Hydrants



Boston has over 13,000 fire hydrants for one purpose: to help the Boston Fire Department fight fires.

Never open a fire hydrant.

Open fire hydrants will cause low water pressure, which impacts your neighborhood's safety and ability to fight fires.

The loss of water puts a financial burden on every paying customer.

If you see it open, REPORT IT!

Call 617-989-7000.

Fixing Car Leaks Protects Our Waterways



Cars use many different fluids—motor oil, transmission and brake fluid, antifreeze, and more. When car fluids leak, they fall onto the road, wash into a catch basin, and end up polluting Boston Harbor and other local waterways.

How can you help? It's as easy as 1-2-3:

- 1** Check your car for drips or leaks regularly. See something amiss? Fix it promptly!
- 2** Put a drip pan or waterproof cloth under your car if you have a leak or are doing engine work.
- 3** Treat motor oil and other automotive fluids as household hazardous waste. Dispose of them at a Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off (or Paint and Motor Oil Recycling Drop-Off) Day.

Neighborhood Site Locations

Boston Water and Sewer Commission (BWSC) will have a representative from the Community Services Department at neighborhood locations (see the schedule below) to offer assistance.



Meet with BWSC staff to:

- Pay your water bill with a check or money order—no cash.
- Talk about any problems you may have with your bill or service.
- Find out how much water is being used on your property.
- Plan to make payments on bills that are past due.
- Receive help applying for a senior or disabled person's discount.
- Learn more about BWSC customer programs.

Brighton

Allston/Brighton APAC
143 Harvard Avenue
Thursdays, 10 AM–12 PM
7/21 and 8/25

Charlestown

Golden Age Center
382 Main Street
Tuesdays, 11 AM–1 PM
7/26 and 8/30

Chinatown

CCBA
90 Tyler Street
Thursdays, 11 AM–1 PM
7/14 and 8/11

Dorchester

**Uphams Corner
Municipal Building**
500 Columbia Road
Fridays, 10 AM–12 PM
7/22 and 8/12

East Boston

East Boston APAC
21 Meridian Street
Wednesdays, 10 AM–1 PM
7/6, 7/13 and 8/3, 8/10

Fields Corner

Kit Clark Senior Center
1500 Dorchester Avenue
Mondays, 10 AM–12 PM
7/18 and 8/15

Hyde Park

**Hyde Park
Municipal Building**
1179 River Street
Tuesdays, 10 AM–1 PM
7/5, 7/19 and 8/2, 8/16

Jamaica Plain

**Curtis Hall Community
Center**
20 South Street
Mondays, 10 AM–12 PM
7/11 and 8/8

Mattapan

**Mattapan Public
Library**
1350 Blue Hill Avenue
Fridays, 10 AM–12 PM
7/8 and 8/5

North End

**North End Public
Library**
25 Parmenter Street
Thursdays, 10 AM–12 PM
7/7 and 8/4

Roslindale

**Greater Roslindale
Medical & Dental
Center**
4199 Washington Street
Tuesdays, 10 AM–1 PM
7/12 and 8/23

South Boston

South Boston APAC
424 West Broadway
Wednesdays, 10 AM–12 PM
7/27 and 8/24

West Roxbury

**Roche Community
Center**
1716 Centre Street
Fridays, 10 AM–1 PM
7/29 and 8/26

South End & Roxbury

Residents of the South End and Roxbury are invited to use the BWSC Headquarters as their neighborhood site location.



**BOSTON WATER AND
SEWER COMMISSION**

980 Harrison Avenue • Boston, MA 02119

Headquarters are open:
Monday–Friday, 8 AM–5 PM
Wednesdays, 8 AM–7 PM

617-989-7000 www.bwsc.org