

ENVIROtalk

Summer 2005

West Nile virus

Do you know what's biting you?

Summer heat is just around the corner and so are the mosquitoes. Yes, you've heard it before: mosquitoes can carry the West Nile Virus (WNV), a disease that affects horses, many species of birds and humans.

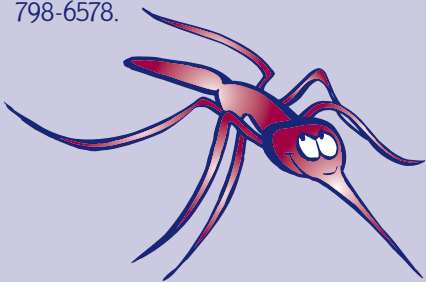
At the deadline of this publication (May), Washington remains the only state in the lower 48 without a human case of WNV.

The best way to minimize the threat of the virus is to control mosquitoes. Protective measures include changing the water in fountains, birdbaths and wading pools weekly during mosquito season.

Also consider draining or treating stagnant water, mowing grass and weeds, putting screens on windows, and use repellents and insecticides *only* according to label directions.

There's only a small chance of contracting WNV, but wouldn't you rather minimize that chance?

For more information, visit www.cityoftacoma.org/westnilevirus, or call the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, 798-6578.



RID YOURSELF OF JUNK

Use call-2-Haul

Do you have an old refrigerator you want to get rid of? Are you tired of looking at that water heater you replaced months ago? For non-reusable household items that are truly junk, use Solid Waste Management's Call-2-Haul service.

City of Tacoma residential garbage customers may request Call-2-Haul service up to 2 times a year, any time of the year. And, there's no out-of-pocket charge — it's included in your regular garbage bill.

For each Call-2-Haul visit, you're allowed:

- ✿ Up to 3 large items (refrigerators, water heaters, sofas, etc.)
- ✿ Up to 15 boxes or bags — light enough for one person to lift — of smaller household junk (clothing, toys, microwaves, etc.)

Whether for curbside collection or if you'd rather haul it yourself to the Tacoma Landfill, **please call ahead and schedule your appointment.** We'll ask what types of items you have and then tell you how they should be prepared for either pick-up or haul-in.

To schedule your appointment, call 573-2468 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays. For more information, visit www.cityoftacoma.org/call2haul.

Call-2-Haul

Here's how it works:

- ✿ 2 curbside pickups per year or 2 trips to the Tacoma Landfill
- ✿ Available any time of the year
- ✿ Call to schedule an appointment (whether curbside or self-haul)
- ✿ No out-of-pocket charge

Accepted:

- | | |
|-------------|----------------------|
| Appliances | Furniture/mattresses |
| Barbecues | Vacuum cleaners |
| Bikes | Power yard equipment |
| Carpet | (no riding mowers) |
| Electronics | |

Not accepted:

- Car/motorcycle/camper/boat parts
- Construction/demolition materials
- Hazardous materials, liquids
- Items from businesses
- Tires
- Vehicles, canopies, trailers
- Yard waste

Call 573-2468 about items not listed.



GREENER CLEANER

Get ready for grilling

Ready to fire up your barbecue for some summer meals? Before cooking, you might need to clean greasy grime from your last cookout.

Get started with this environmentally-friendly recipe.

You will need:

- 1 tsp salt
- 1 lemon
- 3 cups of warm water



Exterior: Mix 1 tsp. table salt in 3 cups of warm water and use a wash rag to scrub the exterior of the barbecue. Wipe clean with unsalted water. Clean the barbecue over your grass or patio.

Grill: It's best to wash your grill in a sink or bathtub depending on the size. Cut a lemon in half and rub the lemon over the grill. Let the grill sit for a few minutes and then use a coarse sponge or wire brush and warm salt water to scrub the grime off. Repeat if necessary. If you've got big food particles stuck to your grill, you may want to do the scrubbing step first.

All recipes tested by City staff; your results may vary. Find more earth-friendly recipes at www.cityoftacoma.org/greenercleaners.

"Our Brown," Tacoma's yard waste container, can handle most of your yard waste needs, and later this fall it will be required for curbside yard waste recycling.

The complimentary wheeled container with attached lid comes in a convenient 90-gallon size and holds the equivalent of three 30-gallon containers.

You will receive ordering instructions in your mailbox between now and early fall. Because of the high volume of requests, we will be delivering containers by garbage collection days only. The delivery schedule hasn't yet been set as of press time, but you can check www.cityoftacoma.org/yardwaste or call our yard waste recycling hotline, 565-5955, for updates.

There's no need to order your container until *after* you receive detailed instructions from us that are tailored to your neighborhood. You can continue using your own yard waste containers until your new one is delivered.

Our customer service representatives will be answering a large number of calls this summer and fall, and your patience is *most* appreciated.

Solid Waste Management will assist yard waste customers with special needs or space restrictions.

What can Our Brown do for you?



CLEAN UP AT THE CAR WASH

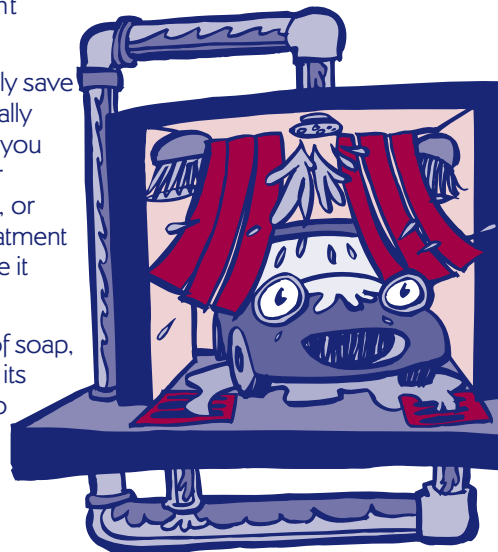
CLEAN UP

Why wash your car at home when you can take it to a commercial car wash? You won't believe the benefits!

Commercial car washes not only save you *time* and *energy*, they actually use significantly *less water* than you might at home. They also either recycle their wash water on site, or they send it to a wastewater treatment facility where it is cleaned before it enters Commencement Bay.

At home, dirty wash water full of soap, grime and chemicals can make its way into storm drains and out to the nearest body of water.

This summer, when your car needs a bath, curb pollution and save water by taking it to a commercial car wash near you.



EnviroKIDS Water world activity

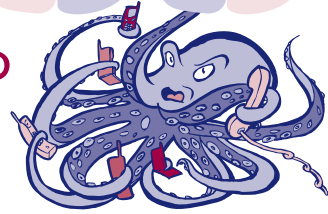
Pools, lakes and streams,
oh my!

When it gets hot outside this summer, why not go for a swim to cool off? If you'd like to see what's going on beneath the surface, make a critter scope and explore all that's underwater.

All you need is a soup can, plastic wrap, a rubber band, waterproof tape, a can opener and an adult. Learn about making critter scopes on the EnviroKids Web site: www.cityoftacoma.org/envirokids.



KEEP an Eye OUT for POLLUTION



If you see activities that might threaten the health of Commencement Bay or its surrounding waters, call the **Water Pollution Hotline 383-2429**

You will remain anonymous. For weekends or after-hours emergencies, call 911.

The hotline is a joint effort between the City of Tacoma and Citizens for a Healthy Bay.

Tie one on for TAGRO



Are you a proud TAGRO user and want to show it? Then sport the latest in fashion with new TAGRO hats and ties. In classy black with vivid white and lime-green accents, the new hats and ties definitely will get you, and maybe your garden, noticed.

Hats are \$10 and ties are \$15 (tax included). Place an order at www.tagro.com, over the phone at 502-2150 or at the TAGRO office (Tacoma's Central Wastewater Treatment Plant, 2201 Portland Ave., Gate #5).

However you order, you'll need to come to the TAGRO office to pick up the products. Heck, it's a good excuse to pick up a little extra TAGRO, too!



2GOOD2TOSS.COM

reusable building materials & large household items



2good2toss.com features new photo option

The popular 2good2toss.com Web site, where you can buy and sell reusable building materials and household items, just got better!

The site now has photo capability, so you can let the pictures do the talking.

You'll find everything from appliances and furniture to landscaping supplies and recreation equipment, all for sale for \$99 or less at www.2good2toss.com.

Browse more than 500 listings of available or wanted items in your area, some of which feature full-color photos. Or, if you have stuff that is "too good to toss," list it on the site yourself. It's quick, easy and free. For more information, visit www.2good2toss.com.



Have YOU seen this FiSH?

Have you seen this fish on a storm drain in your neighborhood? If you haven't, think about gathering a few friends and family together this summer to mark drains with the "no dumping" message.

It's a little known fact that water flowing into Tacoma's storm drains goes directly into our waterways without treatment. Lawn and garden chemicals, car oils,

pet waste and litter washed into drains by the rain can hurt salmon and other aquatic critters.

You can help by marking some of the City's more than 17,000 storm drains with painted stencils or plastic curb markers. The "no dumping" message reminds people that our everyday activities *do* pollute our environment.

You pick the day and we'll give you materials and instruction — free of charge. We hope to mark more than 500 drains this year. To schedule, contact

Citizens for a Healthy Bay, 383-2429 or volunteer@healthybay.org. Visit www.cityoftacoma.org/environmentalservices/volunteer for more information.

The storm drain marking program is a joint effort among the City of Tacoma, Citizens for a Healthy Bay and the Pierce Conservation District Stream Team.

EnviroChallenge

The City of Tacoma surface water system has more than 500 miles of pipe and 17,000 catch basins.

Win a prize!

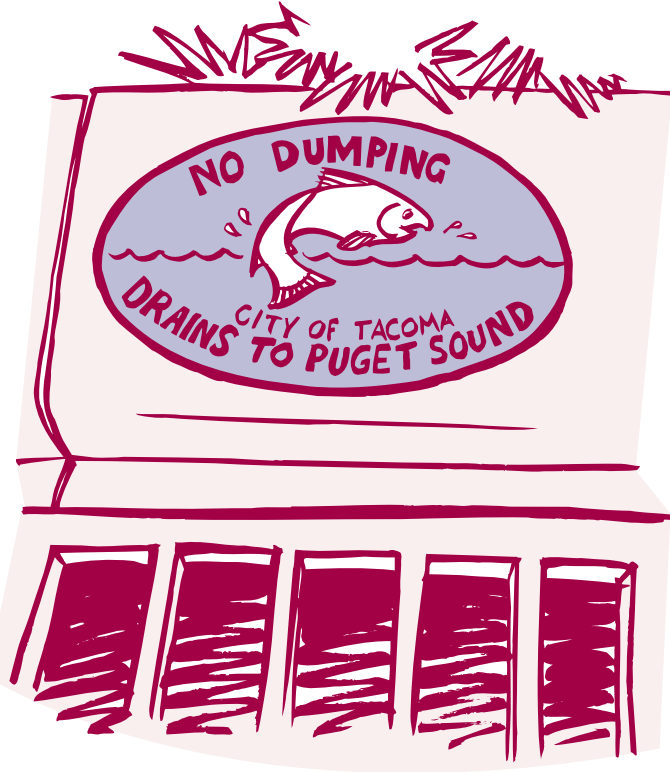
Why is it important to keep litter and pollutants out of the street grates and catch basins?

The first five Tacoma residents to correctly answer this question will receive an Environmental Services backpack/cooler.* Do some detective work at www.cityoftacoma.org/waterservices.

E-mail your answer to envirotalk@cityoftacoma.org (answers will not be accepted by phone).

Congrats to Justin Doray, Lee Fellenberg, Adrienne Moore, Carla Moschetti and Max Zimmerman! They won the last EnviroChallenge by answering that the City's contractors are waiting until August to dig more polluted sediments from the Thea Foss Waterway because of the mandatory fish migration season.

* Limit one winner per household, per calendar year.



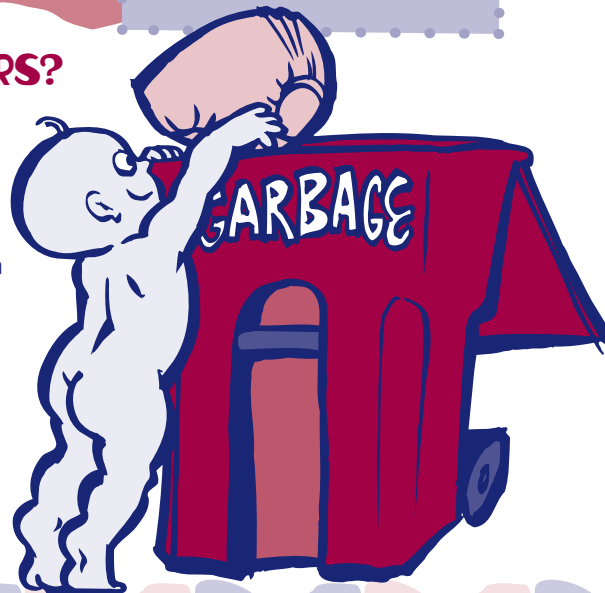
Dealing with Disposable Diapers? THEY GO IN THE GARBAGE!

Are you on diaper duty at your house? All disposable diapers — dirty or clean, baby or adult — go in the garbage.

While dirty diapers might leave you feeling blue, they go in the green garbage container. Disposable diapers are not recyclable!

Unfortunately, Solid Waste Management has discovered them in recycling containers, which poses a health risk to our collection crews and to the employees who hand-sort our recyclables.

Disposable diapers can pile up fast, but please make room for them in your garbage container.



E-cycle old electronics

Don't trash your old technology. Recycle or donate yesterday's electronics.

Many computer companies have recycling programs to take back your old computers, and several local businesses will recycle electronics such as computers, monitors, fax machines or televisions for a minimal fee.

Or, instead of recycling your working electronics, contact local charities to find out what items they'll accept.

Find more information at www.cityoftacoma.org/electronicrecycling or call 593-7719.



DONATE RESPONSIBLY

Goodwill wants your unwanted stuff, but remember to donate responsibly by bringing to donation stations only clean, unbroken items that still have life left in them.

Leaving broken, dirty or worn out items at donation stations is just like leaving garbage. Did you know that Goodwill must pay to dispose of unacceptable items?

Even good donations that are left when donation stations are closed can end up causing problems. Rain and wind often ruin good

items. Even worse, scavengers rifle through these donations, taking the best and leaving the remainder as an unsightly, costly mess.

Here's how to donate responsibly:

- 1) Donate only when donation stations are open.
- 2) Report to your local authorities any suspicious activity you see at closed Goodwill donation stations.
- 3) Give thoughtfully. Only reusable, gently-used items can be sold in Goodwill stores.

Tacoma Goodwill turns your donations into jobs and training for people with disabilities and disadvantages. Find more information at

www.tacomagoodwill.org
or 272-5166.



in this issue



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Public Works
Environmental Services
747 Market Street, Room 408
Tacoma, Washington 98402-3769

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
TACOMA, WA
PERMIT NO. 2

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We want your feedback and
story suggestions. E-mail us at
envirotalk@cityoftacoma.org.

PW 512005 016 0505 a

City of Tacoma Environmental Phone List



Call-2-Haul	573-2468
Garbage, recycling & yard waste	591-5543
Hazardous waste	591-5418
Landfill scalehouse	593-7724
Recycling schedule (recorded message only)	565-5955
Solid Waste (general questions)	591-5543
Sewer backups	591-5585
TAGRO	502-2150
Wastewater/Surface Water (general questions)	591-5588
Street flooding	591-5585
Foss cleanup (24-hour message line)	233-1995
Water pollution hotline	383-2429
Water conservation.....	502-8723