

EnviroTalk

Spring 2012

Food waste recycling

Yes

- Breads, grains, pasta, cereal
- Fruit and vegetables
- Dairy and eggs (including shells)
- Meat, poultry and seafood (including bones)
- Leftovers/food scraps, coffee grounds/filters

No

- Plastic, glass, metal
- Liquids, grease, oil
- Cardboard, pizza boxes
- Plastic or compostable bags
- Paper (OK to use newspaper or paper bags to line bucket)

www.TacomaRecycles.org
(253) 591-5543

They're
coming,
Tacoma

NEW FOOD WASTE RECYCLING SERVICE BEGINS SOON

Little brown kitchen buckets will land on the doorsteps of Tacoma's single-family homes beginning next month. Make sure you're ready to take care of your new arrival by feeding it food waste and keeping it clean.

How to recycle food waste

1. **Collect** food waste in your "little brown" bucket.
2. **Empty** contents of your bucket into your "big brown" yard waste container.
3. **Set out** your "big brown" container at the curb/alley on your regular yard waste collection day. (Do not set out your little bucket.)

How to minimize pests and odors

- ☒ Line bucket with newspaper or a paper bag.
- ☒ Empty bucket regularly.
- ☒ Rinse out bucket and sprinkle with baking soda.
- ☒ Freeze or refrigerate fish, meat and other strong-smelling food scraps until the night before collection. (Remember, no plastic bags in the bucket.)
- ☒ Line the bottom of your "big brown" container with yard waste or several sheets of newspaper.

Before you begin recycling food waste, make sure you have a City-supplied yard waste container (different from the "little brown" bucket). This is the only way Solid Waste Management will collect your food waste. You're allowed up to two yard waste containers at no additional charge.

www.TacomaRecycles.org
(253) 591-5543



FREE HOME & GARDEN WORKSHOPS

Date	Title	Time
March		
10	Pruning Basics: Fruit Trees & Berries	10:30 a.m.
17	Residential Lighting & Design	10:30 a.m.
17	Backyard Chickens: Getting Started	1:30 p.m.
24	Planning a Food Garden: Soil & Seeds	10:30 a.m.
25	Rain Barrels: How to Make & Maintain	1:30 p.m.
31	Greener Cleaners: Make, Store, Use	10:30 a.m.
April		
7	Pruning Landscape Trees & Shrubs	10:30 a.m.
14	Yard Waste & Worm Bin Composting	10:30 a.m.
21	Solar Power: How it Works & Incentives	10:30 a.m.
28	Residential Rain Gardens	10:30 a.m.
28	Porous Pavers: Paths, Patios, Driveways	11:30 a.m.

Workshops are open to Tacoma and Pierce County residents.

Please register in advance as space is limited. For updated information or to register for workshops, please visit www.cityoftacoma.org/envirohouse or call (253) 573-2426.

The City of Tacoma EnviroHouse is located at the Tacoma Landfill, 3510 S. Mullen St.



RECYCLING review

Home Improvement

Do you have an upcoming home demolition or remodeling project? Think recycling and reuse before heading to the landfill.

Recycling

• Hauling service

Request a temporary recycling container for large amounts of recycling. Wood debris, cardboard, roofing, metal and concrete can all be recycled. Container delivery, rent and hauling fees apply. Tacoma Solid Waste Management, (253) 591-5543, www.TacomaRecycles.org.

• Private recyclers

Search "recycling services" on the web or in the phone book for private companies that accept recyclable materials.

Reuse

• www.2good2toss.com

Buy, sell or give away reusable building materials. \$199 or less.

• Habitat for Humanity Store

Donate reusable home improvement materials. Tax deductible. www.tpc-habitat.org, (253) 779-8149

Green remodel ideas

City of Tacoma EnviroHouse (Tacoma Landfill), Wed.-Fri., 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Sat.-Sun., 11 a.m.-5 p.m. www.cityoftacoma.org/envirohouse (253) 573-2426

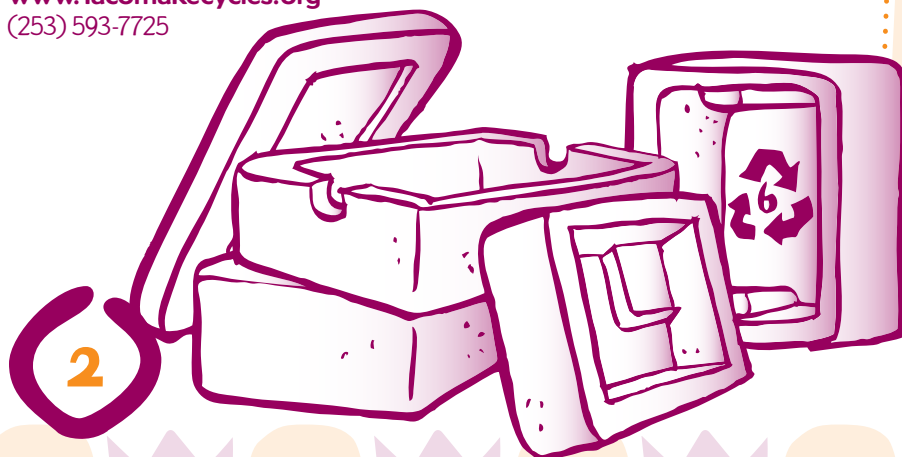
New at the Recycling Center

Recycle STYROFOAM™ blocks

Good news! The City's Recycling Center (Tacoma Landfill) now accepts clean and dry #6 Styrofoam™ blocks for recycling from residents and businesses in Pierce County. Solid Waste Management's new recycling machine chops, heats and presses the Styrofoam™ into 40-pound blocks. The blocks can then be recycled into products such as plastic TV and computer casings.

At the Recycling Center, packing peanuts should be placed in a separate bin. Foam and Styrofoam™ food containers are not accepted.

www.TacomaRecycles.org
(253) 593-7725



5 Steps to a SAFE, HEALTHY YARD

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, all pesticides are toxic to some degree. This means they can pose some risk to you, your children and pets – especially if these chemicals are overused or carelessly applied.

To have a naturally healthy yard you can brag about:

- 1 **Build healthy soil.** Feed your garden beds with 2-4 inches of TAGRO Mix or compost, or fill with TAGRO Potting Soil.
- 2 **Plant right for your site.** Choose plants suited for available water, sun and soil type. Group plants with similar needs together.
- 3 **Practice smart watering.** Water deeply, but less often. One inch of water a week is all a healthy lawn needs.
- 4 **Think twice before using pesticides.** Healthy plants attract fewer bugs, and at least 95 percent of the bugs in your yard are beneficial. If you have an insect problem, try to find it and fix it at its source.
- 5 **Practice natural lawn care.** Feed your lawn by letting grass clippings lay. Also, try spreading a thin layer of TAGRO Mix over the top once or twice a year.

www.cityoftacoma.org/naturalyards

TAGRO Premium Soil Products

Available for pickup or delivery all year

TAGRO (Central Treatment Plant), 2201 Portland Ave, Gate 6
Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat. 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

(253) 502-2150 | www.tagro.com

Extended hours
for Spring!



RESOURCE LIST

Spring 2012



Resource	Phone	Website
Solid Waste Management (garbage, recycling, yard waste)		
Solid Waste information line (recorded message)	565-5955	
Solid Waste general questions	591-5543	www.TacomaRecycles.org
Call-2-Haul	573-2468	www.cityoftacoma.org/call2haul
EnviroHouse	573-2426	www.cityoftacoma.org/envirohouse
Hazardous waste	591-5418	www.cityoftacoma.org/hazwaste
Landfill scalehouse	593-7724	
Wastewater/Surface water		
General questions	591-5588	www.cityoftacoma.org/wastewater
Billing questions	502-2100	www.cityoftacoma.org/surfacewater
TAGRO	502-2150	www.tagro.com
Sewer backups, Street flooding & Street sweeping	591-5585	www.cityoftacoma.org/flood www.cityoftacoma.org/streetsweeping
Water pollution hotline	383-2429	

When calling any of the utilities, please have your account number available.
Your account number is located at the top of your utility bill.

Make a difference with Make a Splash grants

Get up to \$4,000 from the surface water utility for projects that help keep our local waterways pollution-free.

Make a Splash grants fund projects that address stormwater pollution prevention or protection and restoration of our local lakes, streams, rivers and Puget Sound.

Past projects have included videos, multilingual outreach efforts, classroom experiences, and monitoring and stewardship projects.

Applications and details are on the City's website. Deadline is Monday, May 20.

(253) 502-2126

www.cityoftacoma.org/makesplash



A City of Tacoma Environmental Grant Program

Survey says . . .

We wanted to know how useful EnviroTalk is to you so we can create a publication that best suits your needs. More than 3,200 Tacoma residents returned the survey from their fall EnviroTalk. Here are some highlights:

- ✿ 80 percent of respondents read EnviroTalk in its entirety; 27 percent file it for future reference.
- ✿ Respondents gave EnviroTalk high marks for being informative (95 percent); useful (93 percent) and timely (91 percent); many people (73 percent) like to clip and save individual articles.
- ✿ 89 percent have used the recycling and yard waste calendar stickers.

You requested more information about:

- ✿ Disposing and recycling chemicals
- ✿ What items can be recycled
- ✿ Composting
- ✿ Utility rates, such as how rates are determined and what they pay for

We will use this information to fine-tune EnviroTalk. You will see the word search has been included in this issue due to how popular it is with survey respondents. Thanks to everyone who participated in the survey. If you have additional comments about EnviroTalk, please email them to envirotalk@cityoftacoma.org or call (253) 591-5051.



GREENER CLEANER

3 uses for lemons

When life hands you lemons ... make a greener cleaner! Here are three ways to use lemons and their peels for a naturally clean home:

- 1. Clean greasy kitchen surfaces.** Sprinkle some salt on a lemon half and rub on greasy countertops. Follow with a clean, damp cloth. Do not use on surfaces sensitive to acid.
- 2. Keep insects out.** Many pests dislike the acid in lemon. Chop lemon peels and place them along thresholds, windowsills or near any cracks or holes where ants and other pests may enter.
- 3. Refresh cutting boards.** Lemons have antibacterial properties that help remove stains and smells from cutting boards. After washing your cutting board, rub the surface with a halved lemon and let it sit for a few minutes, then rinse.



www.cityoftacoma.org/greenercleaners

EnviroKIDS

Make your own herb garden

Materials:

- ☀ 1 box similar to the type Satsuma oranges come in
- ☀ 6 pint-sized ice cream containers
- ☀ Potting soil
- ☀ Herb seeds such as sage, basil, thyme and chives

How to:

1. Poke drainage holes in the bottom of each ice cream container.
2. Fill each container with potting soil.
3. Plant seeds in each container according to the instructions on the seed packet.
4. Line the box with a plastic grocery bag and place the 6 ice cream containers in the box.
5. Place your new herb garden in a sunny window and water as instructed on seed packets.

www.cityoftacoma.org/envirokids

TAGRO Potting Soil is available by the bag at:
Portland Avenue Nursery
Gray Lumber
GardenSphere



5 things your garage can do without

If spring cleaning takes you into the garage, responsibly get rid of hazardous household chemicals by taking them to the City's Household Hazardous Waste Facility at the Tacoma Landfill, 3510 S. Mullen St. Five items you can bring to the Household Hazardous Waste Facility are:

1. Toxic yard and garden chemicals
2. Unusable oil-based paint
3. Used motor oil
4. Rusted out propane tanks (empty or with propane)
5. Pool/hot tub chemicals

Please use boxes or crates for transporting to keep containers upright and intact. Contain leaking containers and keep them separate.

www.cityoftacoma.org/hazwaste
(253) 591-5418

ENViRO Q&A

Lids

Q: Why can't I recycle lids in the blue recycling container?

A: When lids – plastic or metal – are mixed with other recyclables, they have the potential to 1) cause problems on the processing plant's sorting line because they're small, flat and lightweight, and 2) decrease the value of the other recycled materials by contaminating those materials after they are sorted.

Please throw all caps and lids in the garbage. Find more about what is and isn't recyclable at www.cityoftacoma.org/recyclingreview.

Want to get GROWING?

Whether you want to grow your own food year-round, help tend crops for those in need or just do a little weeding and be around fun people (and yummy potlucks), Tacoma's 27 operating community gardens have plenty of opportunities.

'Edible Gardens' workshops

Workshops are free and open to all Tacoma and Pierce County residents.

Seed-Starting: Vegetable Gardens from Seed	March 10	10 a.m., TAGRO Office
	March 21	6 p.m., Moore Library
Soils for Vegetable Garden Success	April 7	10 a.m., TAGRO Office
	April 18	6 p.m., Moore Library
3rd Annual Community Garden Summit	April 28	McCarver Elementary School
Planting & Maintaining a Year-Round Garden	May 5	10 a.m., TAGRO Office
	May 16	6 p.m., Moore Library

Space is limited, please register in advance by emailing kmcivor@forterra.org or call (253) 363-1846.

DID YOU KNOW?

... that more than 18.5 tons of dog waste is dropped in Tacoma backyards every day?

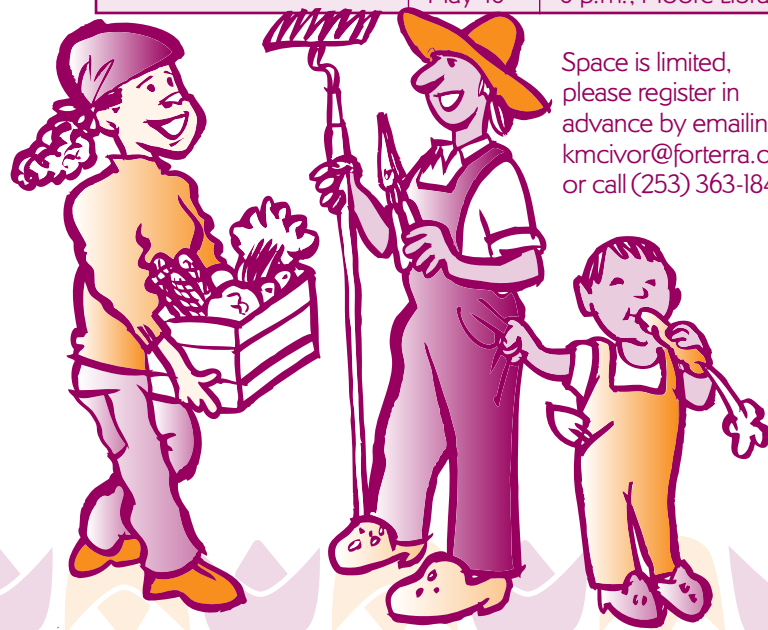
Pet waste contains disease-causing microorganisms like fecal coliform bacteria, salmonella, roundworms and giardia that can remain in your yard for as long as four years if not cleaned up.

When it rains, pet waste left on the ground mixes with stormwater runoff and the contaminants are carried to our local lakes, streams, rivers and Puget Sound.

Please pick up pet waste, bag it, and place it in the garbage. Or, flush pet waste down the toilet (do not flush bags or clumps of kitty litter down the toilet or place in yard waste bin).

www.cityoftacoma.org/surfacewater
(253) 591-5588

Puget Sound
Starts Here.org



EnviroTalk

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We want to hear from you:
EnviroTalk@cityoftacoma.org
www.twitter.com/EnviroTalk
 (253) 591-5051



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 Environmental Services
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 Tacoma, Washington 98402-3769

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What's that WORD?

Below are seven statements that can be found in this issue of EnviroTalk. Each sentence has a missing word or phrase. Complete the sentence and then find the word or phrase in the word search below. If you get stumped, the answers are at the bottom. A key to this word search will be featured in the next issue of EnviroTalk.

- If spring cleaning takes you into the garage, responsibly get rid of hazardous household chemicals by taking them to the City's Household Hazardous Waste Facility.
- Whether you want to grow your own food year-round, help tend _____ for those in need or just do a little weeding and be around fun people, Tacoma's 27 community gardens have plenty of opportunities.
- When it rains, pet waste left on the ground mixes with _____ runoff and the contaminants are carried to our local lakes, streams, rivers and Puget Sound.
- Little brown kitchen _____ will soon land on the doorsteps of Tacoma's single-family homes.
- Get up to \$4,000 from the surface water utility for projects that help keep our local _____ pollution-free.
- According to the Environmental Protection Agency, all _____ are toxic to some degree.
- Please throw all caps and lids in the _____.



Answers: 1. CHEMICALS, 2. CROPS, 3. STORMWATER, 4. BUCKETS, 5. WATERWAYS, 6. PESTICIDES, 7. GARBAGE



If you need this information in an alternative format, please call (253) 591-5051. People with hearing or speech impairments may contact us through Washington Relay Services, 1-800-833-6388 (TTY or ASCII).