

EnviroTalk

Summer 2013

DON'T FREAK, IT'S EVERY OTHER WEEK

When every-other-week garbage collection will come to your neighborhood:

- Tuesday garbage customers: June/July
- Wednesday garbage customers: August/September
- Thursday garbage customers: October/November

Ways you will hear from us:

- **Mail:** Postcard giving you a heads-up about a month prior to your collection change. Brochure with all of the details, including a new collection calendar.
- **Phone:** Automated voice mail message to remind you of the collection change.
- **Garbage can:** Tag on your container letting you know about your new container.

www.TacomaRecycles.org/everyotherweek

New garbage collection change makes its way through Tacoma

As of May, Garbage Geek and Scrap have helped educate nearly 22,000 Tacoma residential customers about the new every-other-week garbage collection change.

Customers whose garbage days are Monday and Friday have already made the switch to every-other-week collection. About 14 percent of customers will receive notice that their collection day is changing in addition to every-other-week collection.

Customers will receive double their current garbage capacity with either a new, double-sized container or a second same-sized container. If you're able to fit the garbage you produce over two weeks into a smaller container, you may request a different container size.

Current container size	New container size
20 gallon	45 gallon
30 gallon	60 gallon
60 gallon	Two 60 gallon
90 gallon	Two 90 gallon

For more information:

Phone: (253) 591-5543

Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Web: www.TacomaRecycles.org/everyotherweek

Email: solidwaste@cityoftacoma.org



GROW your own GREENS

Grow veggies just like the ones at the farmers market using TAGRO Potting Soil.

1. **Choose a container.** Use pottery, dishware, an old tub or a window box.
2. **Fill with TAGRO Potting Soil.** Perfect for indoor or outdoor container gardens, greenhouses or raised garden beds.
3. **Determine what to plant.** Plant seeds for veggies such as lettuce, radishes, carrots, tomatoes, green onions or herbs. *Remember when planting things like carrots or radishes, you need a deeper container.*
4. **Find a good spot.** Think somewhere sunny, accessible and easy to water.
5. **Water regularly.** Check once a day to make sure the soil is damp.

Need a little or a lot? TAGRO Potting Soil is available for pickup or delivery.

www.tagro.com
(253) 502-2150
2201 Portland Ave., Gate 6, Tacoma

TAGRO Potting Soil is also available by the bag at these locations:

- **Ace Hardware at Westgate**
2675 N. Pearl St., Tacoma
- **AgriShop Tacoma Ace Hardware**
2012 S. 12th St., Tacoma
- **GardenSphere**
3310 N. Proctor St., Tacoma
- **Gray Lumber**
3800 Sixth Ave., Tacoma
- **H&L Produce**
7320 Lakewood Drive W., Lakewood
- **Jade Mountain Nursery**
5020 116th St. E., Tacoma
- **Northshore Ace Hardware**
35419 21st Ave. S.W., Federal Way
- **Portland Avenue Nursery**
1409 E. 59th St., Tacoma
- **Tacoma Boys**, 5602 Sixth Ave., Tacoma
- **Walker Ace Hardware**,
1616 SW Dash Point Road, Federal Way

Avoid **COSTLY** sewer backups

When your side sewer — the pipe that connects your home's sinks and toilets to the City of Tacoma's sewer system — gets blocked, the result can be messy, costly and unsanitary.

Common causes of side sewer problems:

- ✿ **Pipes in need of repair or replacement.** Side sewers made of clay or concrete pipes can crack, shift out of place, or be invaded by roots. If you have an older home, consider getting an inspection so you can plan for repairs.
- ✿ **Grease buildup.** Collect excess grease and cooking oil and put in a leftover food container (such as a tin can). When full, seal in a plastic bag and place in the garbage. Large amounts of oil can be disposed of at the City's Household Hazardous Waste Facility (Tacoma Landfill) for no extra charge.
- ✿ **Items flushed other than toilet paper.** Even items marketed as "flushable" often don't disintegrate like toilet paper, and can cause blockages in your home's pipes. Flush toilet paper only.

(253) 591-5588

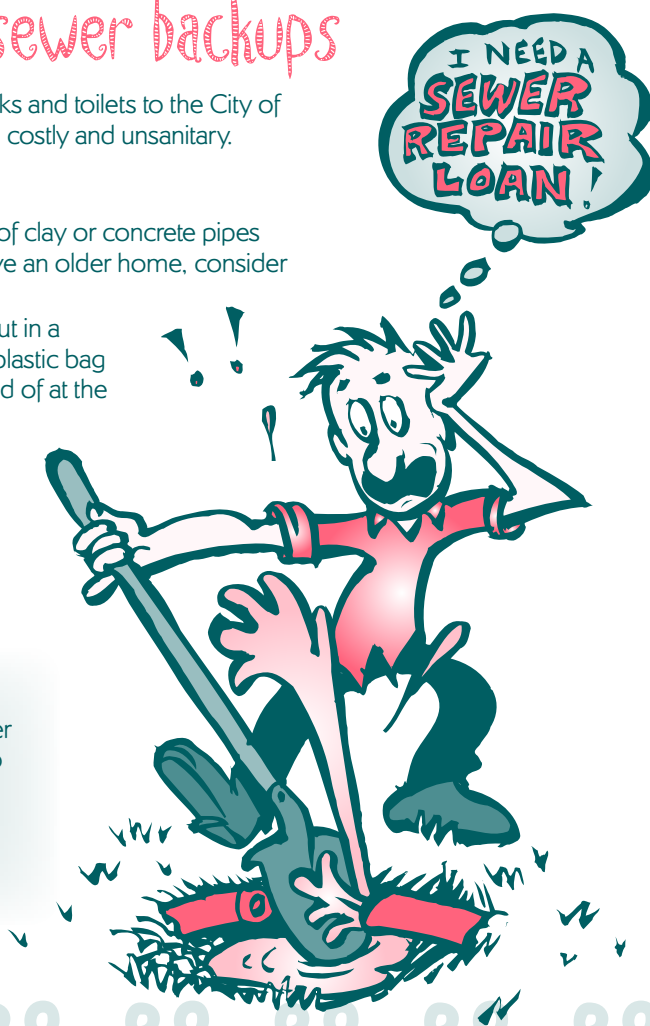
www.cityoftacoma.org/sidesewer

Wondering how to pay for a repair?

You could be eligible for a low-interest loan through the Sewer Conservation Loan Program. Call or visit the City's website to see if you qualify.

(253) 591-5236

www.cityoftacoma.org/sewerloan



How do I dispose of ...

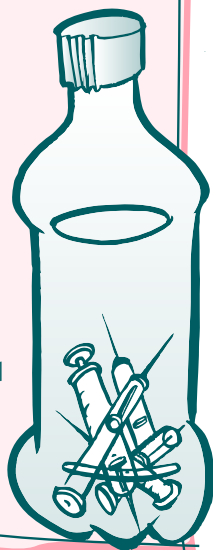
Sharps & medical waste

Sharps

Sharps (needles and syringes used to treat medical conditions at home) are hazardous to sanitation workers and should never be put loose in the garbage or toilet. Prepare sharps for proper disposal by placing them inside a plastic pop bottle, tin can or approved sharps container and seal it closed with the cap or lid. Properly dispose of the container free of charge at the City's Household Hazardous Waste Facility (Tacoma Landfill). For more information, call (253) 591-5418.

Medical waste

Residents who generate bio-hazardous or infectious waste (gauze, bandages, etc.) that contain bodily fluids from humans or animals which also include medical waste such as saline drip bags and lines must call Solid Waste Management for disposal instructions. Proper disposal depends on the type of material and must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. For more information, call (253) 591-5543.



RESOURCE GUIDE

SUMMER 2013



Solid Waste Management

Solid Waste Management (garbage, recycling, yard/food waste) Information line (recorded message)	591-5543	www.TacomaRecycles.org
General questions	565-5955	
Call-2-Haul	573-2468	www.cityoftacoma.org/call2haul
Hazardous waste	591-5418	www.cityoftacoma.org/hazwaste
Landfill scalehouse	593-7724	

Surface Water Management Wastewater Management

General Surface Water and Wastewater questions	591-5588	www.cityoftacoma.org/surfacewater www.cityoftacoma.org/wastewater
Billing questions	502-2100	
Sewer backups & Street flooding Street sweeping	591-5585	www.cityoftacoma.org/flood www.cityoftacoma.org/streetsweeping
Leaf disposal		www.cityoftacoma.org/leaves
TAGRO	502-2150	www.tagro.com

Environmental Services (solid waste, surface water, wastewater)

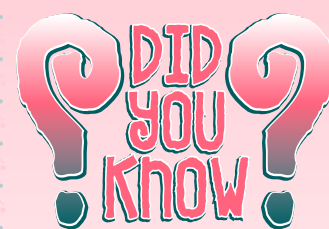
www.cityoftacoma.org/environmentalservices

EnviroHouse	573-2426	www.cityoftacoma.org/envirohouse
Email listserv		www.cityoftacoma.org/environews
Twitter		www.twitter.com/CityOfTacoma
Facebook		www.facebook.com/cityoftacoma

When calling any of the utilities, please have your account number available. It is the first thing you will be asked and allows us to quickly access your information. Your account number is located at the top of your utility bill.

Answer key to the spring issue's puzzle.

F	J	H	V	B	N	M	K	K	O	L	O	C	X	S	W
L	K	J	N	V	F	G	Y	H	U	J	I	K	C	Z	F
H	A	Z	A	R	D	O	U	S	L	R	G	H	J	N	B
J	K	L	G	B	V	F	G	V	D	T	E	W	D	H	P
L	O	I	J	B	N	C	V	F	D	R	E	X	U	C	B
P	L	G	B	N	P	O	L	L	U	T	I	O	N	D	F
W	E	R	R	T	V	L	G	H	H	K	L	P	T	O	B
B	J	O	Z	S	F	L	J	G	H	Y	T	U	R	I	O
P	O	U	U	T	Y	E	F	A	C	V	G	H	E	Z	S
U	J	N	K	N	B	C	V	R	C	F	G	H	A	I	T
R	E	D	C	V	Y	T	U	B	N	J	H	V	T	E	R
K	I	H	B	N	C	I	R	A	Y	U	I	O	E	N	K
N	M	K	L	V	G	O	Y	G	U	P	N	K	D	L	X
Q	W	D	F	G	T	N	U	E	Y	V	C	H	J	D	S
P	O	L	Y	H	G	V	B	J	K	Y	G	H	F	D	X
U	J	K	M	N	D	F	R	E	Y	Q	Y	A	R	D	C



You may request additional big blue recycling containers and up to two big brown yard/food waste containers at no additional charge. If you need more than two yard/food waste containers, there's a \$3 per month charge.

To request additional recycling containers, call Solid Waste Management, (253) 591-5543.

24-hour water Pollution Hotline

(253) 383-2429

Call in and help us stop:

- Construction site runoff
- Accidental spills
- Leaking dumpsters
- Soapy or discolored water running into storm drains
- People dumping oil, chemicals or other waste into or near storm drains, creeks, lakes or Commencement Bay.

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

www.cityoftacoma.org/surfacewater

GREENER CLEANER

Greener grill cleaner

Get your grill ready to fire up with this environmentally-friendly recipe.

You will need:

- 1 tsp. table salt
- 1 lemon
- 3 cups of warm water
- Old rag
- Coarse sponge or wire brush

Exterior: Mix 1 tsp. salt in 3 cups of warm water and use an old rag to scrub the exterior of the grill. Wipe clean with unsalted water.

Grill: Wash the inside of 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 off the grime. Repeat if necessary.

When cleaning your grill outside, be sure you are on the grass to avoid greasy stains on your deck or patio.

www.cityoftacoma.org/greenercleaners



What's that **WORD**?

Complete the sentences below (answers found by reading this issue of EnviroTalk) 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.

1. You may request additional recycling containers and up to two yard/food waste containers at no additional charge.
2. Keep dirty car wash _____ out of Puget Sound by using a free pollution-preventing Clean Bay Car Wash Kit.
3. Sharps (needles and syringes used to treat medical conditions at home) are _____ to sanitation workers and should never be put loose in the garbage or toilet.
4. Grow _____ just like the ones at the farmers market using TAGRO Potting Soil.
5. When your side _____ — the pipe that connects your home's sinks and toilets to the City of Tacoma's sewer system — gets blocked, the result can be messy, costly and unsanitary.



Answers: 1. RECYCLING, 2. WASTE, 3. HAZARDOUS, 4. VEGGIES, 5. SEWER

Please see pg. 3 for answers to last issue's puzzle.

Rhubarb ♥ Recycling

Can you name a reindeer that loves to recycle?

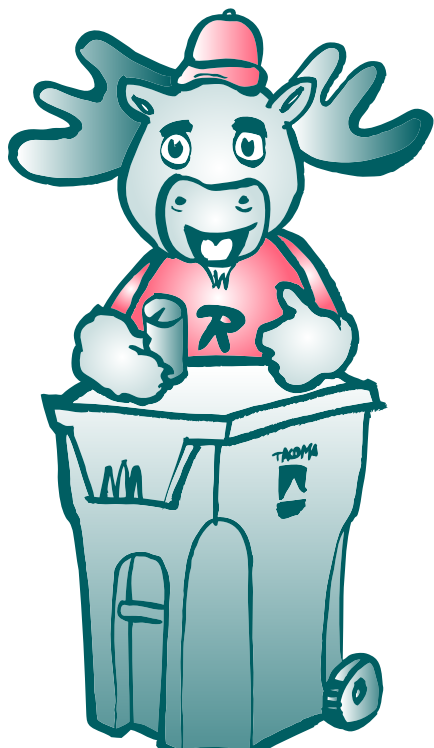
Ah, that's easy. Rhubarb, the Tacoma Rainiers mascot, is a devoted recycler, thanks in part to City of Tacoma Solid Waste Management.

All those cans and bottles at Cheney Stadium need help from fans to find their way into recycling bins. Rhubarb helps out by reminding people to recycle.

Tacoma's Environmental Services utilities – Solid Waste Management, Surface Water Management and Wastewater Management – help support the Rainiers. In turn, Rhubarb reminds people of sound environmental behaviors.

Besides the earth-loving reindeer, Cheney Stadium is home to environmentally friendly rain gardens, porous pavement and other green infrastructure. Check out the informative signage along Clay Huntington Way, the fourth certified Greenroad in the world, next time you're at the ballpark.

www.cityoftacoma.org/cheney



EnviroKIDS

The winners are...

The annual EnviroChallenger/EnviroKids Earth Day Art Contest received entries from elementary school students who drew ways they practice earth-friendly activities at home, outside, at the park or while playing/watching sports. The awards go to:

Grades K-1 Division

- First place: Sabine Reyns, Geiger Montessori
- Second place: Archie Patterson, Seabury School
- Third place: Olivia Wilcox, Seabury School

Grades 2-3 Division

- First place: Micah Piscopo, DeLong Elementary
- Second place: Olivia Mattsen, St. Charles Borromeo
- Third place: Nyia Holland, Skyline Elementary

Grades 4-5 Division

- First place: Patty Panom, Lister Elementary
- Second place: Michael Ackley, Blix Elementary
- Third place: Stephanie Smolinski, Browns Point Elementary

View the winning artwork at www.EnviroChallenger.com.

Prizes for the contest were donated by the Tacoma Rainiers and Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium.

Enviro Q&A

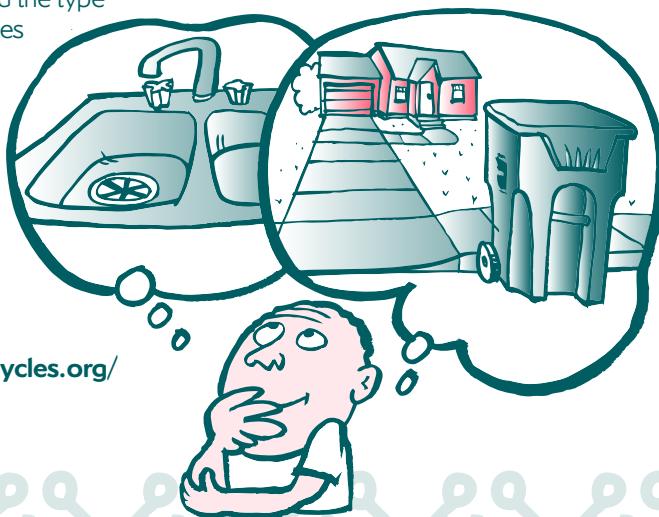
Q: What's the best way to dispose of food waste: the garbage disposal or the brown yard/food waste container?

A: Researchers seem to still be debating which is better – putting food waste in the garbage disposal or into the yard/food waste container, but both keep food waste out of the landfill.

Customers may choose the method that works best for them. For some, it can depend on the time of the year (warmer months have potential for increased odor) and the type of food waste (bones or other hard-to-grind items).

If you're using a garbage disposal, use your best judgment on what your equipment and pipes can handle.

www.TacomaRecycles.org/foodwaste



EnviroTalk

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- ✿ Sewer repair loan.....page 2
- ✿ Additional recycling containerspage 3
- ✿ Greener grill cleaner.....page 4
- ✿ Food waste disposal options..... page 5

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



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City of Tacoma
Environmental Services
747 Market Street, Room 408
Tacoma, Washington 98402-3769

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Advance registration required:

Please go to www.cityoftacoma.org/envirohouse or call (253) 573-2426. Schedule is subject to change.

Workshop location:

City of Tacoma EnviroHouse (Tacoma Landfill), 3510 S. Mullen St., 98409

June

- | | | |
|----|------------|---|
| 8 | 10:30 AM | Yard Waste & Worm Bin Composting |
| 8 | 1:30 PM | Backyard Chickens: Getting Started |
| 15 | 10:30 AM | Porous Pavers: Paths, Patios, Driveways |
| 22 | 10:30 AM | Natural Yard Care & Pest Management |
| 29 | 10:30 a.m. | Saving Our Salmon, Grades 3-8 |

July

- | | | |
|----|------------|--|
| 13 | 10:30 AM | Yard Waste & Worm Bin Composting |
| 20 | 10:30 a.m. | Babies/Toddlers = Cloth Diapers/Green Cleaning |
| 27 | 10:30 a.m. | Solar Power: How It Works & Incentives |



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).