

# EnviroTalk

Winter 2009

## Recycle your Christmas tree

### Yard waste container

Solid Waste Management encourages you to cut your Christmas tree (unflocked, undecorated) in small enough sections to fit inside your yard waste container so the lid closes flat.

### Curbside pick-up

If you're unable to fit your tree inside the container, we will pick up your tree at no additional charge from Jan. 11 to 22.

- Remove all decorations and tinsel (Dispose of flocked trees in the garbage or at the landfill.)
- Take tree out of the stand
- Cut into lengths no longer than 3 feet and bundle with heavy twine
- Place in container or in front of the curb

A different truck will come along to pick up bundled trees only. Please note that Christmas trees are the only exception to the utility's rule that no separate bundles are allowed outside of containers.

### Landfill drop-off

Single-family residents may recycle their clean, unflocked trees at the Tacoma Landfill (3510 S. Mullen St.) Dec. 26 through Jan. 24. The landfill is open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily (closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day).

For more information:  
(253) 591-5543



## It's the thought that counts **Great** IDEAS for **WASTE-FREE** Gifts

With a little creative thinking, you'll leave a lasting impression on friends and family without creating lasting items in the landfill. Your thoughtfulness will pay dividends to you and the planet.

### Gifts from the heart

- Home-cooked meal
- Home or car repair
- Monthly lunch date
- Night of babysitting
- Dessert of the month
- Donate to a charity in recipient's name
- Sponsor/adopt a zoo animal in recipient's name
- Month's worth of Community Supported Agriculture

### Create memories, not waste

#### Tickets/gift cards to:

- Sporting events
- Restaurants
- Spas
- Museums
- Movies/theater
- Cooking/dancing/golf lessons
- Membership to zoo/aquarium, fitness club, arts organization

If you're determined to give "stuff," wrap wisely...

### Wrap a gift in a gift

- Use a bath towel to wrap oils, lotions, bubble bath
- Wrap barbeque utensils or picnic supplies in a tablecloth
- Wrap kitchen gifts in dishtowels or oven mitts
- Fill a flower pot with seed packets, bulbs, gloves, nursery gift card

### Homemade wrap, ribbon and bows

- Use reusable cloth, bags and boxes
- Tie packages with old holiday lights for a funky, found-art look
- Use old VHS and cassette tape as ribbon
- Reuse old bells, fake holly, dried plant/herb trimmings or Pez dispensers in place of a bow
- Wrap gifts with old maps, comics or paper bags



For more seasonal  
waste reduction tips:

[www.cityoftacoma.org/wastefree](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/wastefree)

# EnviroKIDS T-shirt to tote

**Have an old T-shirt that's super cute but just doesn't fit anymore? Transform it into a stylish tote bag!**

## What you'll need:

- ▶ Old heavy-weight cotton T-shirt
- ▶ Sewing pins
- ▶ Sewing machine
- ▶ Medium-size plate
- ▶ Water-erasable marking pen or pencil
- ▶ Scissors
- ▶ Adult help and/or supervision

## Instructions:

1. Turn the T-shirt inside out and pin the bottom of the shirt along the hem.
2. Using a sewing machine, sew the bottom of the shirt closed. Sew across the bottom a couple of times to reinforce the seam.



3. Flip the shirt right side out and lay flat on a table making sure all seams are lined up.
4. Place a medium-size plate about halfway over the neck hole.
5. Using a water-erasable marking pen or pencil, trace along the edge of the plate.
6. Cut along the outline, making sure to go through the front and back sides of the shirt, to create an opening for the bag.
7. Line up the hems on the front and back side of the sleeve and cut the sleeves off leaving the original seam, making sure to go through both sides of the shirt. Repeat on the other sleeve.

Now you have a recycled and reusable bag for groceries, library books, gym clothes and more!

For more project ideas:  
[www.cityoftacoma.org/envirokids](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/envirokids)

## Puget Sound is in trouble and you can be part of the solution

Approximately 75 percent of all pollution in Puget Sound comes from stormwater runoff.

When it rains, what runs off our yards, our driveways and our streets flows directly – untreated – into our local lakes, streams and Puget Sound.

Visit [PugetSoundStartsHere.org](http://PugetSoundStartsHere.org) to find out some simple things you can do to keep pollution from entering our local waterways.

**Be sure to check out the "Your Rewards" section of the site for coupons!**

**Puget Sound Starts Here.org**

## GIFT PACKAGING

**Q: What types of gift packaging are recyclable?**

### A: Recyclable:

Gift wrap (non-metallic/foil), paper gift bags (handles removed),

paper gift tags, cardboard boxes

Packing peanuts are recyclable at the City's Recycling Center (Tacoma Landfill)

**Reuse/garbage:** Metallic, foil or plastic gift wrap, bags and tags; bows; ribbon; decorative package toppers; Styrofoam packing blocks

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## Flood prevention 101:

### Keep leaves and yard waste out of the street

If not disposed of properly, leaves and yard waste can cause big problems such as street flooding, overloading local waterways and causing safety hazards for passersby.

So before heavy winter rains come down, it's important to remove leaves, plastic bags and other debris from storm drain grates.

### Wondering what to do with your leaves and yard waste?

- ✿ Use as compost in your garden.
- ✿ Place in your brown yard waste container.
- ✿ Dispose of large amounts of yard waste at the Tacoma Landfill (no extra charge for City of Tacoma single-family residents).

### Report stormwater flooding or sewage backups:

(253) 591-5585

**Street maintenance, street flooding, slides or road closures:** (253) 591-5495

[www.cityoftacoma.org/flood](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/flood)



# RECYCLING

review

## Household Hazardous Waste

Household hazardous waste doesn't go in the garbage, and it's not recyclable in your blue container. Tacoma residents can properly dispose of it for no additional charge at the City of Tacoma's Household Hazardous Waste Facility.

Here's a list of the most common items accepted and not accepted at the facility:

### YES

- Acids & caustics
- Antifreeze
- Automotive products
- Batteries (car, button, household and rechargeable)
- Cooking oil
- Flammable liquids
- Fluorescent bulbs
- Gas and fuel
- Glues
- Household cleaners
- Hypodermic needles or syringes (sealed inside rigid container)
- Insecticides
- Mercury thermometers/thermostats
- Motor oil
- Oil-based paints
- Pool chemicals
- Solvents
- Yard & garden chemicals

### NO

- Ammunition & explosives
- Asbestos
- Commercial/business hazardous waste
- Contaminated soil
- Electronics
- Latex paint (water-based)
- Medical waste

*Gather items in boxes (no plastic bags or garbage containers). Maximum 30 gallons per day.*

City of Tacoma  
Household Hazardous Waste Facility  
(Tacoma Landfill), 3510 S. Mullen St.  
8 a.m.-6 p.m., daily • (253) 591-5418  
[www.cityoftacoma.org/hazwaste](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/hazwaste)

## GREENER CLEANER

### Brew a clean coffee maker

Remove the gunk, grime and stains from your automatic coffee maker using this environmentally friendly recipe.

#### Ingredients:

- Water
- Distilled white vinegar

#### Directions:

1. Pour equal parts of vinegar and water into the coffee maker's water chamber.
2. Switch on the brew cycle.
3. Halfway through brewing, turn off the coffee maker and let the solution sit for about an hour
4. Turn the coffee maker on again to complete the cycle.
5. Run several cycles through with clean water.

Please check your coffee maker's instruction manual before using this recipe.

For more recipes:

[www.cityoftacoma.org/greenercleaners](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/greenercleaners)



## Plant a tree – it's FREE!

Tacoma residents can get free street trees (and a yard of TAGRO Mix) through the City's TreeStreet NW Project. All you need to do is team up with a couple neighbors. Applications are due the first of each month, September through April.

For information on the TreeStreet NW Project or Tacoma's Urban Forestry initiatives: (253) 591-2048  
[trees@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:trees@cityoftacoma.org)

[www.cityoftacoma.org/EvergreenTacoma](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/EvergreenTacoma)





# 2010 Rates: WHAT THEY PAY FOR, HOW TO SAVE

Solid waste, surface water and wastewater utility rates will increase by \$5.03 per month for the typical City of Tacoma residential customer\* in 2010.

Rates are going up because of inflation, higher maintenance costs, environmental regulations, nuisance cleanups, and upgrades to the City's infrastructure, such as the Central Treatment Plant expansion. Surface water rates, in particular, are increasing because of new federal permitting requirements for expanded inspections and monitoring of stormwater systems.

## Surface water supports water quality

Surface water rates help pay for:

- ▶ Operation and maintenance of more than 500 miles of stormwater pipe and 22,000-plus catch basins
- ▶ Efforts to control urban flooding
- ▶ Pollution prevention
- ▶ Stormwater system inspections and monitoring

Your surface water charge is based on the size of your lot.

## Solid waste rates include garbage, recycling, other services

Solid waste rates help pay for:

- ▶ Collection of garbage, recycling and yard waste
- ▶ Programs such as Call-2-Haul and the Household Hazardous Waste Facility
- ▶ Citywide private property cleanups (nuisance cleanups)
- ▶ Neighborhood cleanups and the Blightmobile
- ▶ Operation of the transfer facility at the landfill
- ▶ Transportation and disposal of waste material at a landfill
- ▶ Other infrastructure, operational and overhead costs for the landfill and environmental stewardship

Your solid waste charge is based on the size of your garbage container. If, by reducing waste and increasing recycling, you find your 60-gallon can is consistently only half full, you can switch to a 30-gallon can and save \$260 a year. Remember that all of your garbage must fit in the container so the lid closes completely.

Find waste reduction tips at [www.cityoftacoma.org/reducereuse](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/reducereuse).

## Wastewater rates are based on water use

Wastewater rates help pay for:

- ▶ Operation and maintenance of the wastewater collection and treatment system
- ▶ Upgrades to the Central Treatment Plant
- ▶ Preventing pollution of Commencement Bay

Lower your wastewater bill by conserving water. The more fresh water you use in your home, the more wastewater your home sends into the sewer pipes. Because water used on lawns and gardens doesn't go to the treatment plant, residential wastewater charges are based

on the average of four months of water consumption during the winter.\*\*

Here are some tips for saving water all year:

- ▶ Wash only full loads in the dishwasher and washing machine
- ▶ Turn off the water when brushing teeth or shaving
- ▶ Look for leaks and fix them right away
- ▶ Install a low-flush toilet, efficient clothes washer, low-flow showerhead and faucet aerators

Find more information about rates at [www.cityoftacoma.org/esrates](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/esrates), or call

Wastewater/Surface Water: (253) 502-2100  
Solid Waste: (253) 591-5543.

*\*A typical customer has a 30-gallon garbage can, lives on a 7,000-square-foot lot and uses 700 cubic feet of water from Tacoma Water each month.*

*\*\* Which four months your bill covers depends on your meter reading dates. Residents who haven't accumulated a full four months of winter water consumption and residents who don't have Tacoma Water service have their rates based on a citywide average.*

## KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR POLLUTION

If you see activities that might threaten the health of Commencement Bay or its surrounding waters, call the 24-hour Water Pollution Hotline at (253) 383-2429 (you will remain anonymous).

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



# CURBSIDE RECYCLING

Here is a general list of the most common accepted recyclable items in the curbside service. Not all recyclable items are pictured. Please rinse out bottles, jugs, jars, tubs, cans and other items that may have food residue. Remove all caps and lids and place them in the garbage.

For a more complete list of what is and isn't recyclable, go to [www.cityoftacoma.org/recyclingreview](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/recyclingreview).

## Plastics



Bottles & jugs



Jars & tubs



Bags  
*Place inside one bag and secure the top*

## Aluminum & tin



Aluminum cans, foil, trays



Tin & aerosol cans

## Boxes & cardboard

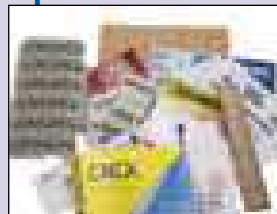


Boxes & plastic-coated cartons



Corrugated cardboard

## Paper



- Newspaper & inserts
- Mixed paper
- Phone books, magazines, catalogs



Shredded paper  
*Place inside bag and secure the top*

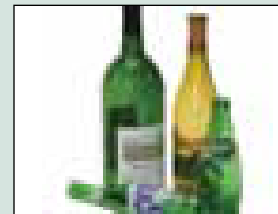
## Glass & battery bin



Clear glass bottles & jars



Brown glass bottles & jars



Green glass bottles & jars



Household batteries  
*Place inside clear bag and secure the top*



## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Solid Waste Management  
3510 S. Mullen St.  
Tacoma, WA 98409

[www.cityoftacoma.org/solidwaste](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/solidwaste)

**Administration** – 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday  
(closed all major government holidays)

General Information (Solid Waste).....(253) 591-5543  
Call-2-Haul (8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.).....(253) 573-2468  
Information Line (24-hour recorded message only) .....(253) 565-5955







**Landfill Services** – 8 a.m.-6 p.m., daily  
(closed 4 p.m. Christmas Eve)

Closed: New Year's Day, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day






Household Hazardous Waste Facility .....(253) 591-5418  
Scalehouse.....(253) 593-7724

# 2010 Recycling and Yard Waste collection schedule





## January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
	3	4	5	6	7	8
	10	11	12	13	14	15
	17	18	19	20	21	22
	24	25	26	27	28	29
	31					





## February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	7	8	9	10	11	12
	14	15	16	17	18	19
	21	22	23	24	25	26
	28					







## March

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	7	8	9	10	11	12
	14	15	16	17	18	19
	21	22	23	24	25	26
	28	29	30	31		

## April

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
	4	5	6	7	8	9
	11	12	13	14	15	16
	18	19	20	21	22	23
	25	26	27	28	29	30

## May

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
	2	3	4	5	6	7
	9	10	11	12	13	14
	16	17	18	19	20	21
	23	24	25	26	27	28
	30	31				






## June

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
	6	7	8	9	10	11
	13	14	15	16	17	18
	20	21	22	23	24	25
	27	28	29	30		

## July

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
	4	5	6	7	8	9
	11	12	13	14	15	16
	18	19	20	21	22	23
	25	26	27	28	29	30
	31					







## August

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	8	9	10	11	12	13
	15	16	17	18	19	20
	22	23	24	25	26	27
	29	30	31			

## September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
	5	6	7	8	9	10
	12	13	14	15	16	17
	19	20	21	22	23	24
	26	27	28	29	30	

## October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
	3	4	5	6	7	8
	10	11	12	13	14	15
	17	18	19	20	21	22
	24	25	26	27	28	29
	31					


## November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	7	8	9	10	11	12
	14	15	16	17	18	19
	21	22	23	24	25	26
	28	29	30			

## December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
	5	6	7	8	9	10
	12	13	14	15	16	17
	19	20	21	22	23	24
	26	27	28	29	30	31

 = set out garbage and recycling (blue) containers on your regular collection day

 = set out garbage and yard waste (brown) containers on your regular collection day

This calendar, specific to the area of the city in which you live, shows the weeks you set out your recycling and yard waste containers. To find your garbage day and the holiday collection schedule specific to your address, go to [www.cityoftacoma.org/collectioncalendar](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/collectioncalendar).

## Holiday Collection Schedule

	If your regular pickup day is...	Your pickup day will be...
<b>Christmas 2009</b>	Friday, Dec. 25	Saturday, Dec. 26
<b>New Year's 2010</b>	Friday, Jan. 1	Saturday, Jan. 2
<b>Fourth of July 2010</b>	On regular schedule	
<b>Thanksgiving 2010</b>	Thursday, Nov. 25	Friday, Nov. 26
	Friday, Nov. 26	Saturday, Nov. 27
<b>Christmas 2010</b>	On regular schedule	

# RECYCLE YOUR COMPUTERS, MONITORS AND TVS - FREE

Don't trash your electronics, recycle them. Authorized collectors accept computers, monitors and TVs for free at many locations in Tacoma and Pierce County.

Through E-Cycle Washington, electronics manufacturers are taking responsibility for the cost of recycling these products. Authorized collectors handle and recycle your electronics safely and responsibly according to preferred processing standards overseen by the Washington State Department of Ecology.

For more information:

1-800-RECYCLE

[www.ecyclewashington.org](http://www.ecyclewashington.org)



**E-CYCLE**  
washington

## E-Cycle Washington accepted items:

- ❑ Computers
- ❑ CPUs (towers)
- ❑ Laptops
- ❑ Computer monitors
- ❑ Televisions

*Some locations may accept other electronics at no charge or for a fee. Contact the collector directly for details.*

## E-Cycle Washington locations in Tacoma:

- ❑ Goodwill (all locations), [www.tacomagoodwill.org](http://www.tacomagoodwill.org)
- ❑ Green PC, 473-4300
- ❑ Monarch Association, 906-7100
- ❑ Oakland Radio & TV, 383-5277
- ❑ SBK Storage Recycling, 539-9095
- ❑ Saint Vincent de Paul, 474-0519
- ❑ Tacoma Recycling, 474-9559

*Locations are subject to change.*

# Give your indoor plants the gift of TAGRO Potting Soil

Even in the dead of winter, there's no need to go without at least a bit of green. Indoor plants thrive on TAGRO Potting Soil, available by the bag at these Tacoma locations:

- ▶ Portland Avenue Nursery, 1409 E. 59th St.
- ▶ Gray Lumber, Sixth Avenue & Proctor Street
- ▶ GardenSphere, 3310 N. Proctor St.

## Need more than a bag? Or looking for some TAGRO Mix?

Come on down to the  
TAGRO Office, 2201  
Portland Ave., Gate 5/6.

## TAGRO winter hours (October-March)

Monday-Friday,  
8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

## We deliver, too!

For more information:  
(253) 502-2150  
[www.tagro.com](http://www.tagro.com)



# DID YOU KNOW?

Grease, fats, oils and gravy that go down your sink, toilet or garbage disposal can stick to the inside of your drain and sewer pipes and cause unpleasant, messy and expensive sewer backups.

## What to do?

- ❁ Collect grease from pans into a jar or can, let cool, seal and place in the trash.
- ❁ Put greasy food or fat trimmings into the trash.
- ❁ Wipe greasy pots and dishes with a used paper towel or napkin.
- ❁ Recycle large amounts of cooking oil, such as from deep-fat fryers, for no additional charge at the Household Hazardous Waste Facility, located at the Tacoma Landfill, 3510 S. Mullen St.

For more information:  
(253) 591-5588

[www.cityoftacoma.org/grease](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/grease)



# EnviroTalk

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EnviroTalk@cityoftacoma.org  
www.twitter.com/EnviroTalk

**Recycling & yard waste**  
schedule & stickers inside!



Recycled and recyclable  
Printed with soy-based ink

PW 512005 016 1109 a  
(SHADED)



City of Tacoma  
Public Works  
Environmental Services  
747 Market Street, Room 420  
Tacoma, Washington 98402-3769

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

*Please keep this as a reference for the upcoming year.*

## 2010 RESOURCE GUIDE

### RESOURCE

Call-2-Haul.....  
EnviroHouse.....  
Garbage.....  
Hazardous waste .....  
Landfill scalehouse.....  
Recycling.....  
Sewer backups .....  
Solid Waste Management information line  
(recorded message only).....  
Solid waste (general questions).....  
Street flooding.....  
TAGRO.....  
Wastewater/Surface water (general questions).....  
  
Wastewater/Surface water (billing questions).....  
Water conservation.....  
Water pollution hotline.....  
Yard waste .....  
Leaves.....  
Street sweeping.....

### PHONE

573-2468  
573-2426  
591-5543  
591-5418  
593-7724  
591-5543  
591-5585  
  
565-5955  
591-5543  
591-5585  
502-2150  
591-5588  
  
502-2100  
502-8723  
383-2429  
591-5543  
591-5588

### WEB SITE

www.cityoftacoma.org/call2haul  
www.cityoftacoma.org/EnviroHouse  
www.cityoftacoma.org/garbage  
www.cityoftacoma.org/hazwaste  
  
www.cityoftacoma.org/recycle  
  
  
  
www.cityoftacoma.org/solidwaste  
www.cityoftacoma.org/flood  
www.tagro.com  
www.cityoftacoma.org/wastewater  
www.cityoftacoma.org/surfacewater  
  
  
  
www.cityoftacoma.org/yardwaste  
www.cityoftacoma.org/leaves  
www.cityoftacoma.org/streetsweeping

*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.*