

ENVIROTalk

Spring 2013

**FREE Mix –
you shovel!**

TAGRO products are available for pick-up or delivery.

TAGRO Potting Soil

\$30 per cubic yard

\$15 per half cubic yard

\$5 minimum purchase
(approximately four cubic feet)

TAGRO Mix

\$10 per cubic yard

Aged Black Bark

\$26 per cubic yard

Pickup and delivery

Come and get it. If you have a pickup truck or trailer, you can pick up larger amounts of TAGRO. Or (for an additional fee) we'll deliver TAGRO products to you. Call for a delivery estimate.

**Product and delivery prices are subject to change*

(253) 502-2150
www.tagro.com

AGED Black Bark

Check out the new product available through TAGRO, Aged Black Bark. Aged Black Bark is a low-nutrient ground cover similar to traditional beauty bark — except that it's black. The best uses for Aged Black Bark are as a ground cover and weed barrier or it can be incorporated into soil to increase the amount of organic matter.

If you are looking for a high-nutrient product to give your lawn or garden a boost, try TAGRO Mix or TAGRO Potting Soil.

TAGRO is available for pickup or delivery all year.

TAGRO (Central Treatment Plant), 2201 Portland Ave. Gate 6
Spring hours: Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat. 8 a.m.-3 p.m.
(253) 502-2150

www.tagro.com

TAGRO

**NEW
FROM
TAGRO**



What's **HAZARDOUS** in your **GARAGE?**

'Tis the season to make a list and check it twice. Yep, that's right, spring fever will likely take you into your garage for chemicals to care for your car or yard.

Take inventory of the hazardous items in your garage (those labeled caution, warning, danger, etc.) by creating a checklist of chemicals. Here's an example to get you started.

	Condition			Action		
	Expired	Damaged	Unmarked	Date	Share excess	Dispose
Antifreeze						
Auto batteries						
Fertilizer						
Engine cleaner/degreaser						
Gasoline/diesel/kerosene						
Lubricants						
Motor oil						
Paints/stains/varnishes						
Pool chemicals						
Solvents/thinners						
Weed killer						
Windshield washer fluid						

Properly dispose of household chemicals at the City's Household Hazardous Waste Facility, located at the Tacoma Landfill (3510 S. Mullen St.). When possible, use non-toxic alternatives.

(253) 591-5418

www.cityoftacoma.org/hazwaste



Make a difference with a Make a Splash grant

Get up to \$4,000 from Surface Water Management 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. Projects that tie in with the Puget Sound Starts Here campaign (www.PugetSoundStartsHere.org) are encouraged.

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 May 20, 2013.

(253) 502-2126

www.cityoftacoma.org/makeasplash



For the latest information on rates for solid waste, surface water and wastewater services, visit the City's website at www.cityoftacoma.org/esrates.

What's going green? **Downtown Tacoma**

Downtown Tacoma is getting a facelift! At the beginning of the year, construction on the Pacific Avenue Streetscape began. Among the upgrades to the streets, sidewalks and lighting are innovative stormwater improvements. These improvements include 14 rain gardens and new landscaping with 129 trees, 817 shrubs and more than 3,000 new plants.

So what does that mean for surface water pollution? A lot! When it rains, water

runs through the streets of downtown picking up pollution and then goes into a storm drain where it flows directly into the Thea Foss Waterway untreated. With the new rain gardens and landscaping, a lot of the stormwater runoff will be captured, filtered and then will flow into the Thea Foss Waterway much cleaner.

www.cityoftacoma.org/pacave



Surface water pollution is a big problem, but here are a few things you can do to help:

- ✿ Pick up pet waste and place it in the garbage.
- ✿ Dispose of litter and cigarette butts in the garbage.
- ✿ Detect vehicle leaks and get them fixed in a timely manner.
- ✿ Practice natural yard care, reducing the number of chemicals on your lawn that can get washed down the storm drain.

DON'T FREAK, we're going every other week

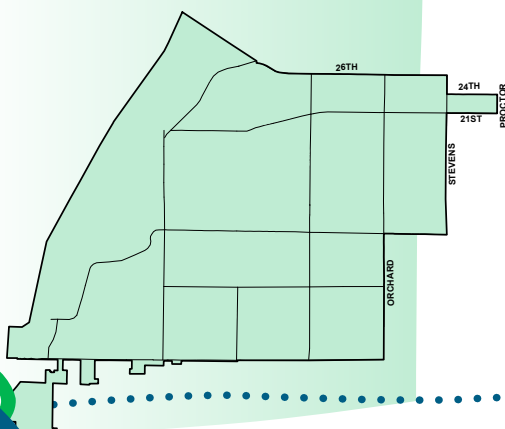
Every-other-week garbage collection begins March 11 for about 5,700 households in a portion of North Tacoma.

When is it coming to your neighborhood?

Where you live in Tacoma will determine when your collection will change. Here's a general timeline — subject to change — for when and where Solid Waste Management plans to implement the switch to every-other-week garbage collection. You'll receive advance notice by mail and phone before your service changes.

- ✿ Monday garbage customers: March/April
- ✿ Tuesday garbage customers: June/July
- ✿ Wednesday garbage customers: August/September
- ✿ Thursday garbage customers: October/November
- ✿ Friday garbage customers: April/May

www.TacomaRecycles.org/everyotherweek



Leak detection is pollution prevention

Vehicles are one of the biggest contributors to stormwater pollution that ends up in our local lakes, streams and Puget Sound. Motor oil, brake dust, tire wear, tailpipe emissions and car wash residue — it all adds up.

Help reduce water pollution:

- ✿ Regularly maintain your vehicle.
- ✿ Be on the lookout for leaks.
- ✿ If you spot drips coming from your vehicle, use cardboard to catch the drips until you can get them fixed. (Make sure to dispose of stained cardboard in the trash, not the recycling!)
- ✿ Carpool or take public transit when possible.

Puget Sound Starts Here.org



Food waste recycling

Has your yard/food waste container been hibernating? Spring is the perfect time to start recycling your food scraps when you can mix them with yard waste in your big, brown container. Here's what's accepted:

Yes

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

No

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

www.TacomaRecycles.org



RESOURCE GUIDE SPRING 2013



Solid Waste Management

Solid Waste Management (garbage, recycling, yard/food waste) Information line (recorded message)	591-5543	
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	

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		www.cityoftacoma.org/flood
Street sweeping	591-5585	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

Email listserv		www.cityoftacoma.org/environews
Twitter		www.twitter.com/EnviroTalk 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.

EnviroKIDS

Garden markers

Make your own garden markers using flat rocks and some paint.

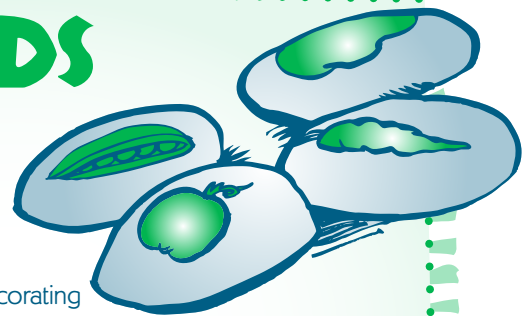
What you need:

- ✿ Rocks with a flat surface for decorating
- ✿ Acrylic paint

Directions:

1. If your rocks are too dark for the paint to show, apply a coat of white paint and let dry.
2. Decorate each rock with a picture of an item you wish to label in your garden and let dry.
3. Place your markers (rocks) in your garden where these items will be growing.

www.cityoftacoma.org/EnviroKids



EnviroTalk

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We want to hear from you:
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 Environmental Services
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 Tacoma, Washington 98402-3769

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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.

- Vehicles are one of the biggest contributors to stormwater *pollution* that ends up in our local lakes, streams and Puget Sound.
- Spring is the perfect time to start recycling your _____ scraps when you can mix them with yard waste in your big, brown container.
- Every-other-week garbage _____ begins March 11 for about 5,700 households in a portion of North Tacoma.
- Take inventory of the _____ items in your garage (those labeled caution, warning, danger, etc.) by creating a checklist of chemicals.
- When it rains, water runs through the streets of downtown picking up pollution and then goes into a storm drain where it flows directly into the Thea Foss Waterway _____.
- Aged Black Bark is a low-nutrient _____ cover similar to traditional beauty bark – except that it's black.
- Don't freak, we're going every other _____.



Answers: 1. POLLUTION, 2. FOOD, 3. COLLECTION, 4. HAZARDOUS, 5. UNTREATED, 6. GROUND, 7. WEEK

Please see pg. 2 for answers to last issue's puzzle.



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).