

# ENVIROTalk

Summer 2010

## What goes where?

What things shouldn't be flushed or poured down the drain? When Environmental Services customers were asked about dumping certain items into the wastewater system, most people knew the right answers. But not everyone knows what goes where.

Here is a quick review of the best way to dispose of some items that shouldn't go down the drain:

- ⚙️ **Household cleaning products** – take to the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Facility located at the Tacoma Landfill, 3510 S. Mullen St.
- ⚙️ **Cooking grease or oil** – cool small amounts in a container, then seal in a bag and put in the garbage; large amounts (from deep fat fryers, for example) can be taken to the HHW Facility.
- ⚙️ **Disposable “flushable” wipes** – throw in the garbage.
- ⚙️ **Medications** – some pharmacies and police stations accept unwanted medication. For locations, visit [www.medicinereturn.com](http://www.medicinereturn.com) or call 1-800-732-9253.
- ⚙️ **Pet waste** – can be flushed down the toilet (but not clumps of kitty litter), or double bagged and put in the garbage.

Household hazardous waste:  
[www.cityoftacoma.org/hazwaste](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/hazwaste)

What not to flush:  
[www.cityoftacoma.org/wastewater](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/wastewater)

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

## Sort your stashes

If you've collected a few too many treasures or, um, trash, here are several ways to dispose, sell or give away your unwanted stuff.

### Oversized junk

#### Call-2-Haul

Solid Waste Management customers living in single-family homes are allowed two scheduled visits per calendar year to get rid of oversized junk. You're allowed up to three large items and 15 lightweight boxes or bags of smaller household junk.

⚙️ **Schedule an appointment** (curbside or self-haul): (253) 573-2468, [www.tacomaservices.org](http://www.tacomaservices.org)

⚙️ **More information:** [www.cityoftacoma.org/call2haul](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/call2haul)

### Reusable items

**2good2toss.com:** Sell or give away reusable household items and building materials that are too good to go to the landfill. There are more than 40 categories to post your items under and sell for \$199 or less. [www.2good2toss.com](http://www.2good2toss.com)

**ReHarvest Center:** Bring your reusable building materials to the ReHarvest Center donation station at the Tacoma Landfill. It's best to call the ReHarvest Center first to ask about specific items they'll accept. Donations are tax deductible. (253) 531-5845

**Goodwill:** The Goodwill donation station at the Tacoma Landfill accepts gently used household items, including furniture. Or visit your favorite charity that also accepts reusable items.



## Use **TAGRO** for **naturally FABULOUS** results

Whether you're after a lush lawn, gorgeous flowers, tall trees or tasty veggies, TAGRO soil products will get you growing.

### **TAGRO Potting Soil**

**Self-load:** Approx. 4 cubic feet for only \$5

**Bulk:** \$30 per yard\*

**By the bag:** Available at Portland Avenue Nursery, GardenSphere and Gray Lumber. Prices vary.

### **TAGRO Mix**

**Self-load:** Bring a shovel and load your own for free!

**Bulk:** \$8 per yard\*

### **TAGRO Office**

2201 Portland Ave, Gate 6, Tacoma

Summer hours: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.;

Saturday, 8 a.m.-Noon

\*Available year-round for pickup or delivery. Delivery charge is \$15 for every 10 miles.

[www.tagro.com](http://www.tagro.com)

(253) 502-2150

### **Host a garden party**

Learn about TAGRO and other natural yard care practices by hosting a "Garden Party" tailored to meet the needs of you and your neighbors.

For information on hosting a Natural Yard Care Garden Party, contact Geoff Rinehart, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department at [grinehart@tpchd.org](mailto:grinehart@tpchd.org) or (253) 798-4587.



## ENVIROHOUSE...ALWAYS SOMETHING NEW

Whether it's new heaters, a new countertop or new plants and garden, there's always something to keep visitors coming back to the EnviroHouse.

In fact, one visitor said she comes to the EnviroHouse frequently to see what's new and different. She most recently cited the new TAGRO garden as her inspiration to grow some things she hadn't tried before.

A few new things to check out at the EnviroHouse this summer:

- ✿ New **TAGRO garden** illustrating how edible plants can be an aesthetic, interesting and delicious addition to your backyard.
- ✿ New summer **workshop series**. Find topics and dates at the EnviroHouse website.
- ✿ New **art exhibit** featuring Sondra Shira and Danella Sydow through July 31.

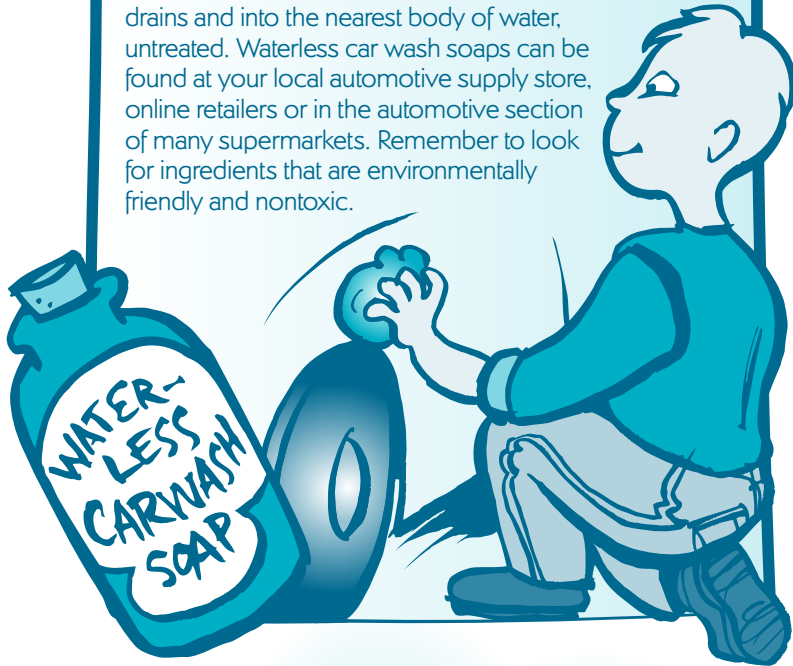
City of Tacoma EnviroHouse,  
3510 S. Mullen St. (Tacoma Landfill)  
[www.cityoftacoma.org/envirohouse](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/envirohouse)  
(253) 573-2426



## EcoFind

### Wash your car without water

Use an environmentally friendly waterless car wash product to keep your car sparkling clean. This prevents harmful soapy water from going down storm drains and into the nearest body of water, untreated. Waterless car wash soaps can be found at your local automotive supply store, online retailers or in the automotive section of many supermarkets. Remember to look for ingredients that are environmentally friendly and nontoxic.



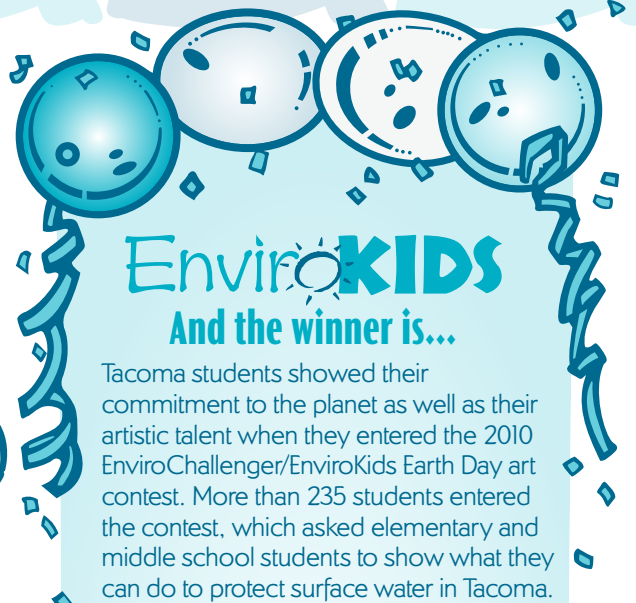
### Have a fruit tree that's more than you can manage?

If your fruit tree is producing more than you can use, there's no need to feed the flies or fill up your compost bin with fruit. The Pierce County Gleaning Project helps prevent fruit waste by harvesting excess backyard produce and distributing it to local food banks.

#### Two ways you can participate:

- ☒ **Donate** your fruit. Accepted fruits include apples, plums, pears, peaches, grapes and berries.
- ☒ **Volunteer** to help harvest fresh food from neighborhood trees or local farms.

[www.piercecountygleaningproject.org](http://www.piercecountygleaningproject.org)  
info@piercecountygleaningproject.org  
(253) 327-1710



## EnviroKIDS

### And the winner is...

Tacoma students showed their commitment to the planet as well as their artistic talent when they entered the 2010 EnviroChallenger/EnviroKids Earth Day art contest. More than 235 students entered the contest, which asked elementary and middle school students to show what they can do to protect surface water in Tacoma.

#### The winners are:

##### Grades K-2 Division

- ▶ First place, **Rachel Tao**, second grade, Browns Point Elementary School
- ▶ Second place, **Lydge Bell**, second grade, Downing Elementary School
- ▶ Third place, **Maddie Hegg**, second grade, Browns Point Elementary School

##### Grades 3-5 Division

- ▶ First place, **Alexis Takara**, fifth grade, Lister Elementary School
- ▶ Second place, **Kailey Allen**, fifth grade, Lister Elementary School
- ▶ Third place, **Kaelyn Barnwell**, fourth grade, Crescent Heights Elementary School

##### Grades 6-8 Division

- ▶ First place, **Isaiah Taylor**, seventh grade, Baker Middle School
- ▶ Second place, **Kyle Vanhoff**, sixth grade, Jason Lee Middle School
- ▶ Third place, **Briana Rangel**, sixth grade, Jason Lee Middle School

To view the winning works of art, visit [www.cityoftacoma.org/envirokids](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/envirokids).

Open during  
road construction  
Access Tacoma Firs Golf Center  
using Center & Tyler streets  
[tacomafirsgolfcenter.com](http://tacomafirsgolfcenter.com)  
(253) 472-6899

## Mark a storm drain, save a fish

Storm drain markers offer a reminder that what goes down Tacoma's storm drains flows directly – untreated – into Tacoma's waterways and eventually Puget Sound.

### First Creek storm drain marking event

Help keep our local waterways clean by volunteering to mark storm drains near First Creek on **Saturday, Aug. 21**. Supplies and lunch will be provided. This event is sponsored by the City of Tacoma, Citizens for a Healthy Bay and Pierce Conservation District's Stream Team.

To sign up or find out about marking storm drains in your neighborhood, contact CHB at (253) 383-2429 or e-mail [volunteer@healthybay.org](mailto:volunteer@healthybay.org).

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

Puget Sound  
Starts Here.org



Can I recycle this?  
What about that?

Knowing what's recyclable can be confusing. We're here to help! Please send us your questions about how to recycle a specific item or category of things. We just might print your question with the answer in the next issue of EnviroTalk as other readers probably have similar questions they want answered. To submit your question, e-mail us at [envirotalk@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:envirotalk@cityoftacoma.org) or leave a message at (253) 591-5051.

## City of Tacoma 24-hour Water Pollution Hotline (253) 383-2429

Activities to report include:

- ☒ 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 City storm drains, creeks, lakes or Commencement Bay.

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



# RESOURCE LIST

Summer 2010

### RESOURCE

### PHONE

### WEB SITE

Solid Waste Management (garbage, recycling, yard waste)		
Information line (recorded message).....	565-5955	
Solid Waste general questions.....	591-5543	<a href="http://www.cityoftacoma.org/solidwaste">www.cityoftacoma.org/solidwaste</a>
Call-2-Haul.....	573-2468	<a href="http://www.cityoftacoma.org/call2haul">www.cityoftacoma.org/call2haul</a>
EnviroHouse.....	573-2426	<a href="http://www.cityoftacoma.org/envirohouse">www.cityoftacoma.org/envirohouse</a>
Hazardous waste .....	591-5418	<a href="http://www.cityoftacoma.org/hazwaste">www.cityoftacoma.org/hazwaste</a>
Landfill scalehouse.....	593-7724	
Wastewater/Surface Water Management		
General questions .....	591-5588	<a href="http://www.cityoftacoma.org/wastewater">www.cityoftacoma.org/wastewater</a>
Billing questions.....	502-2100	<a href="http://www.cityoftacoma.org/surfacewater">www.cityoftacoma.org/surfacewater</a>
TAGRO .....	502-2150	<a href="http://www.tagro.com">www.tagro.com</a>
Street sweeping.....	591-5585	<a href="http://www.cityoftacoma.org/streetsweeping">www.cityoftacoma.org/streetsweeping</a>

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



# Can you find me?

Dear EnviroTalk reader,



My adventure continues as I journey to the Pacific Ocean. Unfortunately, it seems people have let polluted water go down their storm drains ... and it has ended up right here in the bay, untreated.

This pollution poisons the water I depend on for life. But you can help!

- ❁ Minimize your use of lawn chemicals or choose all-natural or organic fertilizers
- ❁ Take your car to a commercial car wash (or wash it on grass or gravel)
- ❁ Fix car leaks
- ❁ Pick up after your pets

Well, I'm going to keep swimming along. I will write to you again once I reach the Pacific Ocean. But until then, you can find me hiding from the pollution somewhere in this issue of EnviroTalk.

Sincerely,

*S. Salmon*

## Holiday collection schedule

Garbage, recycling and yard waste pickup will be on regular schedule the weeks of July 5 and Sept. 6. The landfill will be closed July 4.

Answer key to last issue's puzzle.

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

## GREENER CLEANER

### No more fruit flies

Keep pesky fruit flies out of your kitchen by creating an all-natural fruit fly trap.



1. Take a shallow jar and pour 1 to 2 inches of fruit juice or cider vinegar into it.
2. If the jar has a lid, carefully poke several holes in it and screw it on. If your jar does not have a lid, cover it tightly with plastic wrap and poke several holes in it.
3. Place your trap in the infested area.
4. When the jar is full, pour the contents down the drain and start over.

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

## Keep West Nile Away

### Reduce mosquito breeding habitat

- ⚙ Eliminate standing water around your house
- ⚙ Change water frequently in wading pools, fountains, bird baths and pet dishes
- ⚙ Make sure gutters drain properly

### Prevent mosquito bites

- ⚙ Stay indoors at dawn and dusk
- ⚙ Wear long sleeves and pants when in mosquito-infested areas
- ⚙ Wear mosquito repellent
- ⚙ Make sure windows and doors are "bug tight"



(253) 798-6578 (Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department)

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

## DID YOU KNOW?

Beginning July 1, 2010, Tacoma property owners will be required to obtain a Certificate of Inspection for private side sewers and any sources of inflow (rainwater directed into the wastewater system) before the sale or transfer of a home or business, major remodel or any construction over an existing side sewer.

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

# EnviroTalk

## in this issue

- ✿ Sort your stashes .....page 1
- ✿ Naturally fabulous with Tagro ..... page 2
- ✿ Waterless car wash... page 3
- ✿ Storm drain marking .....page 4
- ✿ No more fruit flies .... page 5

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



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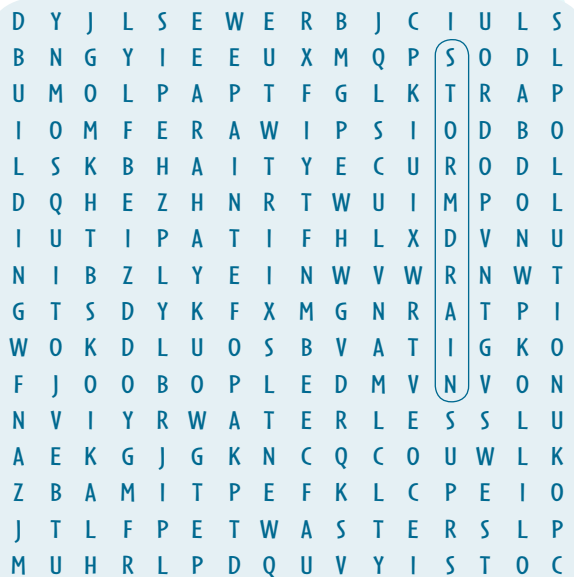
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 Environmental Services  
 747 Market Street, Room 408  
 Tacoma, Washington 98402-3769

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## What's that WORD?

Below are 10 facts 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.

- Storm drain** markers offer a reminder that what goes down Tacoma's storm drains flows directly – untreated – into Tacoma's waterways and eventually Puget Sound.
- Use an environmentally friendly, \_\_\_\_\_, car wash product to keep your car sparkling clean.
- The Pierce County \_\_\_\_\_ Project helps prevent fruit waste by harvesting excess backyard produce and distributing it to local food banks.
- Keep pesky fruit flies out of your kitchen by creating an all-natural fruit fly \_\_\_\_\_.
- Learn about \_\_\_\_\_ and other natural yard care practices by hosting a "Garden Party."
- Reduce \_\_\_\_\_ breeding habitat by eliminating standing water around your house.
- The City of Tacoma offers a 24-hour Water \_\_\_\_\_ Hotline.
- Bring your reusable \_\_\_\_\_ materials to the ReHarvest Center donation station at the Tacoma Landfill.
- \_\_\_\_\_ can be flushed down the toilet or double bagged and put in the garbage.
- Property owners are responsible for maintaining and repairing their private side \_\_\_\_\_.



Answers: 1. STORM DRAIN, 2. WATERLESS, 3. CLEANING, 4. TRAP, 5. TAGRO, 6. MOSQUITO, 7. POLLUTION, 8. BUILDING, 9. PET WASTE, 10. SEWER

Please see pg. 5 for answers to last issue's puzzle.