Stop before you top

If your tree has outgrown its home, don’t make the problem worse with harsh pruning or cutting tree branches back to stubs.

5 reasons not to “top” your trees:
1. Damage to trees from decay, sunburn and increased risk of insect and disease infestation.
2. Rapid increase in growth and future limb breakage.
3. Increased future expenses (pruning or early removal).
4. Decreased property values.
5. Ugly trees.

Tips
- Selectively remove branches and avoid excessive thinning of interior branches.
- Replace a tree unsuited to its spot with one that’s a better fit. Consult a Certified Arborist.

(253) 591-2048
trees@cityoftacoma.org
cityoftacoma.org/stoptopping

Toilets aren’t trash

No one likes to talk about toilets. But there’s something you need to know: Disposable wipes are causing headaches in homes and in sewer pipes.

And that’s costing you money – whether it’s to fix your own plumbing or the City sewer system.

Many products called disposable or flushable don’t break up like toilet paper. They clog pipes or get caught in sewer system pumps, causing messy backups and expensive repairs.

The bottom line: Flush human waste and toilet paper.

Everything else – including wipes, diapers, cat litter, facial tissues, paper towels and sanitary products – goes in the trash.

These products don’t dissolve. You can test them yourself with two bowls of water. Put toilet paper in one and your test item in the other. Swish both items in the water. Wait an hour and swish again. By then, the toilet paper should have almost dissolved, while the other item hasn’t changed much.

Unless something disintegrates at the rate of toilet paper, it goes in the garbage.

cityoftacoma.org/flushable

Strange finds fished from Tacoma’s sewers

Over the years, the pipes that carry wastewater from homes and businesses to the treatment plants have yielded a collection of unusual objects.

Among the discoveries:
- Toys
- Dentures
- Clothing
- Basketball
- Five-gallon bucket
- Waterbed mattress
- Construction debris
- 16-foot extension ladder

That may be a surprising list, but you won’t be surprised to know that NONE of these things belongs in the sewer system.
Pay the easy way:  

**ONLINE**

Paying your bill for Solid Waste, Surface Water, Wastewater, Tacoma Power and Tacoma Water online should be fast, easy and secure. It is!

When you use MyTPU.org/MyAccount, you can easily:

- Pay your utility bill
- Get text and email reminders and manage your profile
- Set up recurring credit and debit card payments without fees
- Sign up for Budget Billing

The updated site has received positive comments from customers.

“After trying to use the site many times before the new update, I can truly say this was so much easier and logical to get info I needed and get back to doing other tasks,” said one customer.

Want to pay your bill online? Simply create an account at MyTPU.org/MyAccount and follow the instructions.

Answer key for puzzle in the winter 2013 issue:

```
L Z E V S K L J O S E N H P V
I U C S D V T I I M E P P B C
N M U T L V S K C L X A I I
D F Z Y R A J R U E I V E Y
B D A G R P B Z S Y R C V E M Z
G C P O L L U T A N T S R H R
P R Y J F A O K W M P R L S A D
E B N O N J E L P A O R J P S
A L J A T R G U C U N P G P Z
S I X M S C Y H O L I D A Y S
E T W Y X O I M Y C Y X Z Z
Z D N E Q I I O C D S T K C W
Q H J Y Z C R H R F X R P Q G
A B F F P L M S W C S E P A T
D A U A U W Z P A R E L S R
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**Resource Guide Spring 2014**

### Solid Waste Management

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Website</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Solid Waste Management</td>
<td>502-2100</td>
<td><a href="http://www.TacomaRecycles.org">www.TacomaRecycles.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>General Solid Waste questions</td>
<td>502-2100</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Recorded Solid Waste</td>
<td>565-5955</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information &amp; Holiday Schedule Line</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Call-2-Haul</td>
<td>573-2468</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cityoftacoma.org/call2haul">www.cityoftacoma.org/call2haul</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hazardous waste</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.cityoftacoma.org/hazwaste">www.cityoftacoma.org/hazwaste</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Landfill scalehouse</td>
<td>593-7724</td>
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### Surface Water Management

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<th>Service</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Website</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sewer backups &amp;</td>
<td>591-5585</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cityoftacoma.org/sewerbackup">www.cityoftacoma.org/sewerbackup</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Street flooding</td>
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<tr>
<td>Street sweeping</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.cityoftacoma.org/flood">www.cityoftacoma.org/flood</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Billing questions</td>
<td>502-2100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leaf disposal</td>
<td>502-2100</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cityoftacoma.org/leaves">www.cityoftacoma.org/leaves</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAGRO</td>
<td>502-2150</td>
<td><a href="http://www.tagro.com">www.tagro.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tree resources</td>
<td>591-2048</td>
<td>cityoftacoma.org/urbanforestry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Surface Water and</td>
<td>502-2100</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cityoftacoma.org/surfacewater">www.cityoftacoma.org/surfacewater</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wastewater questions</td>
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### Environmental Services

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<td><a href="http://www.cityoftacoma.org/envirohouse">www.cityoftacoma.org/envirohouse</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Email listerv</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.cityoftacoma.org/environews">www.cityoftacoma.org/environews</a></td>
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<td>Twitter</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.twitter.com/CityofTacoma">www.twitter.com/CityofTacoma</a></td>
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<td>Facebook</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.facebook.com/CityofTacoma">www.facebook.com/CityofTacoma</a></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

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**Make a Splash: $ for projects that protect waterways**

Do you have an idea that will help protect local waterways? Apply for a Make a Splash grant from Surface Water Management for a project that helps keep our waterways pollution-free.

Make a Splash grants of up to $4,000 fund projects to prevent stormwater pollution or protect and restore local lakes, streams, rivers and Puget Sound. Projects that tie in with the Puget Sound Starts Here campaign (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 23, 2014.

(253) 502-2126
cityoftacoma.org/makeasplash

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**EnviroKIDS**

**Seed balls**

For a little gardening fun, toss a few seed balls wherever you want plants to grow.

**What you’ll need:**

- Bucket
- Clay (use dry pottery or red clay from an art supply department if you don’t have clay soil)
- Compost
- Seeds (try native wildflowers)
- Water
- Cookie sheet or tray
- Newspapers

**Directions:**

1. In a bucket, mix 5 parts dry clay with 1 part compost and 1 part seeds.
2. Add water a little at a time until the mixture holds together in a ball.
3. Pinch off small pieces to make seed balls about 3/4 to 1 inch in diameter.
4. Set on a newspaper-covered cookie sheet and let them dry.
5. Toss seed balls into the garden.

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**Resource Guide**

- **Solid Waste Management**
  - Solid Waste Management (garbage, recycling, yard/food waste)
  - General Solid Waste questions
  - Recorded Solid Waste Information & Holiday Schedule Line
  - Call-2-Haul
  - Hazardous waste
  - Landfill scalehouse
- **Surface Water Management**
  - Sewer backups & Street flooding Street sweeping
  - Billing questions
  - Leaf disposal
  - TAGRO
  - Tree resources
  - General Surface Water and Wastewater questions
- **Environmental Services** (solid waste, surface water, wastewater)
  - EnviroHouse
  - Email listerv
  - Twitter
  - Facebook

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**Get paid to upgrade your old woodstove or insert!**

Funding is available to help you change to a cleaner source of heat. Get paid to upgrade your old woodstove or fireplace during a ban may result in a fine of $16. Watershed

**Leach Creek**

**Flett Creek**

**5 raingarden**

**Y ouT ube...**

Watch our video on cityoftacoma.org/makeasplash

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**Make a Splash**

A City of Tacoma Environmental Grant Program

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**Make a Splash**

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**Make a Splash**

A City of Tacoma Environmental Grant Program

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**Make a Splash**

A City of Tacoma Environmental Grant Program
Home & garden
Advance registration required.
Space is limited. Schedule is subject to change.
Workshops are open to Tacoma and Pierce County residents.

March
8 10:30 a.m. Yard Waste & Worm Bin Composting
9 1:30 p.m. Rain Barrels: How to Make & Maintain
15 10 a.m. Rain Garden How-to & City Incentives
22 10:30 a.m. Pruning Landscape Trees & Shrubs
29 10:30 a.m. Food Gardens: Starting from Seed

April
5 10:30 a.m. Tree Selection: Right Tree, Right Place
5 1 p.m. Tree Planting Done Right
12 10:30 a.m. Yard Waste & Worm Bin Composting
19 10:30 a.m. Planting for Summer & Fall Harvest
26 10:30 a.m. Backyard Chickens: Getting Started

May
3 10:30 a.m. Solar Power: How it Works & Incentives
10 10:30 a.m. Yard Waste & Worm Bin Composting
11 1:30 p.m. Rain Barrels: How to Make & Maintain
17 10:30 a.m. To be determined (see website)
31 10:30 a.m. Ductless Heat Pump Advantages & Incentives

Location: City of Tacoma EnviroHouse at the Tacoma Recovery & Transfer Center (formerly Tacoma Landfill), 3510 S. Mullen St., 98409

Register online at cityoftacoma.org/envirohouse or call (253) 573-2426.

Gardening
The Community Gardens program, sponsored by TAGRO and other organizations, is now Harvest Pierce County.
A series of free Edible Gardens workshops, aimed at beginning vegetable gardens, will be taught by Harvest Pierce County and the Pierce County environmental educators.

Classes in Tacoma:
March 15, 10 a.m. to noon – Starting from Seed
April 19, 10 a.m. to noon – Garden Soil 101
May 17, 10 a.m. to noon – Planting & Maintaining Your Summer Vegetable Garden

Location: TAGRO, 2210 E. Portland Ave., Gate 6, Tacoma, WA 98421

These classes are held at other locations in Pierce County too. Check the website for dates and details.
Classes are free but registration is required.
To register, call (253) 798-4133 or visit piercecountywa.org/enviroed.

Gallucci Learning Garden – Fundamentals of Organic Gardening
Fundamentals of Organic Gardening is a hands-on gardening class taught at the Gallucci Learning Garden, on the corner of South 14th and G streets.
Schedule: Wednesdays from 5-7 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m.-noon, March 26-April 19.

Classes are free but donations are greatly appreciated.
To register, call (253) 256-5116 or email Gallucci@GaudalupeLandTrust.org.
galluccilearninggarden.com

Spring at TAGRO
It’s grow time
Although TAGRO is available year-round, spring is the busiest season for Tacoma’s premium soil products.
- TAGRO Mix
- TAGRO Potting Soil
- Aged Black Bark
- TAGRO Topsoil

TAGRO products are available for pickup or delivery: You can pick up TAGRO products yourself or, for an additional fee, we’ll deliver TAGRO products to you. Call for a delivery estimate.

Spring hours start March 15:
Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m.-5 p.m.: Sat. 8 a.m.-3 p.m.
TAGRO (Central Treatment Plant), 2201 E. Portland Ave., Gate 6
(253) 502-2150
tagro.com
Cut the Clutter! USE CALL-2-HAUL

If spring cleaning leaves you with household items that can’t be reused and don’t fit in your garbage container, give Call-2-Haul a call.

Residential Solid Waste customers can use Call-2-Haul twice a year at no additional cost. Service is available by appointment only for either curbside pickup or hauling items to the Recovery & Transfer Center (Landfill) yourself.

For each Call-2-Haul curbside pickup or self-haul, you are allowed:

- **up to 3 large items** (sofas, refrigerators, water heaters, etc.), and
- **up to 15 bags or boxes** – light enough for one person to lift – of smaller household junk (clothing, vacuum cleaners, microwaves, etc.)

To schedule an appointment:
(253) 573-2468, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., weekdays

Remodeling and construction type materials are not accepted under this program. See cityoftacoma.org/call2haul for more on what’s accepted and not accepted.

Don’t let people trash Tacoma

Garbage dumped on city roadways, streets and alleys affects our safety, property values and quality of life. And it costs you when City crews have to clean it up.

If you see garbage – such as tires, mattresses, furniture and construction materials – dumped on the side of the road, call (253) 591-5001.

If possible, give the location of the illegal dumping: the make, model and license number of the vehicle used to carry the items to the site; and the date and time when the dumping occurred. If you want to be contacted about your report, please remember to include a phone number or e-mail address in your message.

Answers: 1. FLUSHABLE, 2. WATERWAYS, 3. PICKUP, 4. ROADWAYS, 5. WOOD, 6. PRUNING

Please see p. 2 for answers to puzzle in last issue.
Cut the Clutter! Environmental Services

Growth & Development

If spring cleaning leaves you with a oversize plastic bag, don’t throw it away. Instead, bring it to your local Call-2-Haul event to be reused and don’t fit in your regular trash. These events are a great opportunity to get rid of large bulky items that you no longer need or want.

1. Many products called disposable or “flushable” don’t break up like toilet paper.
2. Apply for a Make a Splash grant for a project that helps keep our __________ pollution-free.
3. Call-2-Haul service is available by appointment only for either curbside __________ or hauling items yourself.
4. Garbage dumped on city __________ streets and alleys affects safety, property values and quality of life.
5. Pierce County has an air quality problem caused by fine particle pollution from __________ smoke.
6. If your tree has outgrown its home, don’t make the problem worse with harsh __________.

We want to hear from you: EnviroTalk@cityoftacoma.org

Printed with soy-based ink
Recycled and recyclable

Get help with your rain garden.
Apply for cash to Make a Splash.
Free home and garden workshops.
Call-2-Haul.

Don’t flush that!
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Apply for cash to Make a Splash.
Free home and garden workshops.
Cut clutter with Call-2-Haul.