

# talkin' TRASH ...and more



Visit us at [www.co.thurston.wa.us/wwm](http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/wwm)

## Tips for Keeping Thurston County Healthy, Fall/Winter 2008

### Yard Waste Bins Aren't What They Used to Be ...food and yard waste now belong in the same bin

What do chicken bones, cheese, eggshells and paper coffee cups have in common? They all belong in your curbside yard waste bin.

That's right: Leftover food scraps can now go in your yard waste bin along with the usual leaves, branches and grass clippings. In fact, curbside yard waste bins are now called "organics recycling" bins.

All the materials you place in the organics recycling bin are sent to a commercial composting facility. The materials return to the earth in the form of compost or mulch, instead of taking up space in a landfill.

Curbside food composting is a thrilling development...even if you don't consider trash an exciting topic! Organics make up nearly one-quarter of the materials taken to the Waste and Recovery Center at Hawks Prairie. Residents who participate in the organics recycling program are making a positive change for the environment while potentially saving money on their trash bills.

If you already have a yard waste container, go ahead and start adding food waste and compostable paper. (See the next page for a list of acceptable items.)

If you don't have a bin yet, call your hauler today! Response has been excellent, with haulers reporting a large number of new signups.

- Outside the City of Olympia, call your LeMay Enterprise hauling company and ask about the "Food Plus Organics Recycling" program. Phone numbers are listed on page 7.
- Within the City of Olympia, call 753-8368 and select option 1 for information about "Olympia Composts!" (Please call this number only if you are a City of Olympia resident.)

If you don't need an entire bin for yourself, consider sharing a bin with a neighbor. The City of Olympia also offers a smaller 35-gallon organics cart for the same cost as the 95-gallon cart.

Many cities and counties throughout the United States have been operating successful food recycling programs for years. We're proud to join them! Read inside for more details, or call Thurston County's recorded Food Recycling Hotline at 754-2953.

#### No plastic bags

Please do not place plastic bags in your organics bin...or your recycle bin for that matter. Plastic causes a huge contamination problem for composting and recycling facilities. Use only compostable bags in your organics recycling bin. See page 2 for more details.



Allyson Ruppenthal places food waste in an organics recycling bin.

### trash flash

**ALTERNATIVE TO BURNING:** Composting is a terrific alternative to outdoor burning, which is illegal in many parts of Thurston County. Outdoor burning is banned within the cities of Olympia, Lacey and Tumwater, and within the cities' Urban Growth Areas. It is also illegal in portions of Grand Mound, Bucoda, Tenino, Yelm and Rainier. Burning is allowed in other areas, but only from Oct. 16 through July 14, and only with a permit. It is illegal to burn garbage...any time...any location. For more information about outdoor burning, visit the composting link of [www.co.thurston.wa.us/wwm](http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/wwm).



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## School Lunch Waste

When you go back-to-school shopping this year, consider buying reusable items for school lunches. Examples include reusable lunch boxes and drink bottles, and plastic “snap top” food containers.

Your purchases will save you money on prepackaged food and reduce garbage bills for our financially strapped schools.



According to wastefreelunches.org, paper sacks, plastic sandwich bags, foil juice containers and other disposable lunch packaging create an estimated 8,760 pounds of waste per year for the average-sized elementary school.

## Lessons for Schools

Teachers, are you looking for memorable and fun ways to teach students about waste reduction and recycling? If so, we've got the answer.

The Thurston County Solid Waste program offers materials and presentations on recycling, worm bins, waste reduction, litter, household hazardous waste, and garbage. We also offer field trips to the Waste and Recovery Center at Hawks Prairie.

You may select one lesson or a series of lessons. Our presentations include visual aids, hands-on activities, games, and take-home materials to help students enjoy and retain their newfound knowledge.

For more information, contact Colleen Uureb at 357-2491 or e-mail [uurebc@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:uurebc@co.thurston.wa.us).



Students are naturally interested in the environment.

## Prescription Bottles

Many people wonder whether they should put aspirin and vitamin bottles in their curbside recycle bins. The answer is “yes” – provided the neck of the bottle is smaller than the base, and the bottle is empty. Do not put lids in the bin.

Prescription bottles that have straight sides cannot be recycled at the curb. These bottles are typically orange-tinted, hard plastic.

Yes



No



# Answers About Organics

## Where should I put food scraps and food-soiled paper in the kitchen?

Place food scraps and food-soiled paper in a separate kitchen container instead of the garbage can. When the container is full, take it outside and empty it into your organics recycling bin. Many people place a small, countertop container near the sink, where they chop vegetables and wash dishes.



## What type of container should I use?

Many places sell countertop compost containers. Plastic containers are less expensive, while ceramic and stainless steel bins resist odors. Most people prefer containers with tight fitting lids. (Hint: Used kitty litter and detergent buckets work well as countertop bins.) Some residents even use paper milk cartons as containers, and then toss the cartons into the outside bin.

The Master Gardener Foundation of Thurston County sells kitchen containers online at [www.compostbinthurstoncounty.com](http://www.compostbinthurstoncounty.com). Click on the “accessories” page.

The City of Olympia distributed kitchen bins to customers in July.



Photo courtesy of the City of Olympia



## I'm worried food will make my bins dirty.

No problem. Simply line your small kitchen container with a compostable (biodegradable) bag, a paper bag, newspaper, paper towels or shredded paper.

If the food waste is unbagged when you put it in the outside bin, nestle it among paper and yard debris and keep it away from the sides of the bin.



## May I use a regular plastic bag in my organics bin?

No, please do not place plastic bags in your organics bin. Plastic bags cause a big contamination problem at the composting facility. If you use plastic bags, your hauler may not empty the bin. Use compostable bags only.

## How can I tell if a bag is compostable? Where can I get bags?

Compostable bags are made of organic material such as corn. The composting facility accepts only bags that are certified “ASTM D 6400-99.” Examples include:

- BioBags
- Al-Pack
- Nature Friendly
- EcoSafe



Courtesy City of Olympia

The 3-gallon size generally fits kitchen countertop bins.

Compostable bags are thinner than regular plastic trash bags, so be careful to support the bottom of the bag when you carry it outside.

Compostable bags are carried locally by the two Olympia Food Co-ops, Olympia Supply, Ralph's and Bayview Thrifways, and QFC. Compostable bags are also found easily on the Internet. If you know of any other stores not listed here, please call Thurston County Solid Waste at 357-2491.



## Won't bins smell and attract fruit flies?

Sanitation is your first line of defense against odors and fruit flies, so keep your containers, counters and drains clean. Empty your kitchen container often and make sure the lid is securely closed. If you don't use bags, consider lining the bottom with a paper towel and clean the kitchen container after every use. (Vinegar and baking soda work well to reduce odors.) Shredded paper can be used to absorb liquids, cover food waste, and control fruit flies. Many people freeze food waste and put it in the bin on collection day.

Fruit flies are annoying but harmless. Vacuum cleaners are very effective for removing fruit flies!

If you clean your outside organics bin, please dump the water on a lawn, planting area, or gravel bed. You should not dump the liquid in the street or down a storm drain.



## LeMay Enterprises told me organics collection is not available in my area.

Organics collection service is not yet available in a few, small areas of Thurston County due to lack of demand. Let your hauler know you're interested in organics collection. The haulers are compiling a list of interested customers and will gladly contact you when routes are established.



## How do I sign up?

City of Olympia residents should call 753-8368 and select option 1. LeMay customers should call the appropriate hauler listed on page 7.

## trash flash

**MEAT, BONES AND CHEESE:** It may seem strange to place meat, bones and dairy products in your organics bin, but it's perfectly acceptable. Although these items don't normally belong in home compost bins, the commercial facility grinds materials and maintains much hotter compost piles to effectively decompose all types of food scraps.

# What Goes in the Organics Bin?

**Breads & Grains:** Baked goods, beans, bread, pasta, pizza, rolls



**Meats & Dairy:** Bones, cheese, dairy items, egg shells, meat scraps, seafood



**Fruits and Vegetables:** All fruit and vegetables



*Photos contributed by the City of Portland, King County and the City of Olympia*

**Plant & Yard Waste:** Brush, floral & tree trimmings, grass, leaves, weeds, wooden crates



**Food-Soiled Paper:** Food cartons, pizza boxes, paper towels, paper napkins, paper plates & cups, paper grocery & lunch bags, paper take-out containers, produce boxes, waxed cardboard boxes, gable-top milk & juice cartons



**Not Accepted:** No plastics of any kind, including plastic bags, straws, food wrap, coffee cup lids and plastic utensils. No Styrofoam, cellophane, foil, foil juice pouches, fruit stickers, glass, grease, liquids, metal, oil, rocks, sod, treated or painted wood, or Class A noxious weeds. Feminine hygiene products, toilet tissue, cigarettes and animal waste are also not accepted.

# Not Just a Bill

Are you interested in learning about upcoming events and new programs? Check inside the envelope that contains your garbage/recycling bill or utility bill. Thurston County works with LeMay Enterprises and other service-providers to insert brochures and flyers into billing statements. So check inside the envelope for news and then spread the word!

# Shredded Paper

More people are shredding personal documents to guard against identity theft, which leads to a common question: What should you do with shredded paper?

During the recycling sort line process, shredded paper falls through the cracks – like crumbs. Plus the paper can get blown on the street during collection.

To recycle shredded paper, put the shreds in a paper (not plastic) bag with the top folded over several times and then place the entire bag in the recycle bin. An even better option is to put the shredded paper into your curbside organics recycling bin or home compost bin.

Next time you purchase a paper shredder, look for the type that cuts paper into strips instead of diamonds. Diamond or confetti cut paper cannot be recycled into new paper because the fibers are too short.



# Lucky Eagle Hosts Waste-Less Picnic

The Lucky Eagle Casino left nothing to chance when it hosted an employee picnic in August for 600 people.

Staff and event coordinators placed separate bins at the park to collect recyclable and organic materials. As a result, only 3 percent of the 406 pounds of waste generated went to the landfill. The remaining 97 percent of the materials were either recycled or sent to the Silver Springs composting facility.

Participants even received free T-shirts encouraging them to recycle. The shirts featured an image of a slot machine with the message, "Everyone wins when you recycle."

We thank Lucky Eagle staff and management for all their efforts to protect the environment and for setting a great example for other employers.

# Destination: Silver Springs

Thurston County residents are adding food waste and food-soiled paper to their curbside organics recycling bins, but what happens to all the material after it leaves the curb?

Collected organic waste takes a short trip to Silver Springs Organics in Rainier. The composting process at Silver Springs, through time and temperature, actually neutralizes fertilizers and pesticides. All of the finished compost produced at Silver Springs Organics is certified USDA Organic and carries the US Composting Council's Seal of Testing Assurance.

Silver Springs uses a state-of-the-art covered Aerated Static Pile (ASP) system that covers the organics, maintains a consistent temperature, and manages the air flow through the materials. The system accelerates the composting process and manages odors. To view a short video of the amazing 45-day start-to-finish process of composting at Silver Springs Organics, visit [www.compostsystems.com/ac\\_composter\\_video.html](http://www.compostsystems.com/ac_composter_video.html).

If you would like more information about hours, rates, purchasing compost, or self-hauling material to Silver Springs Organics, call 360-446-SOIL (7645) or visit [silverspringsorganics.com](http://silverspringsorganics.com).

# trash flash

**LITTER:** Every year in Washington, more than 16 million pounds of litter is intentionally tossed from vehicles or accidentally blown onto our roads. The state Department of Ecology spends more than \$4 million each year cleaning up litter, but only up to 35 percent is picked up. Want to do your part? Call the state litter hotline at 866-LITTER-1 (548-8371) to report acts of littering. Be sure to make note of the date, time, location, object thrown and license plate of the vehicle.

## A Toast to These Organizations

Three cheers to these organizations for recycling organic materials:

Allwest Transport  
 Alpine Experience  
 Amcor  
 Applebee's - Lacey  
 Association of Washington Cities  
 Attorney General's Office  
 Batdorf & Bronson (three sites)  
 Bayview Thriftway  
 Boston Harbor Marina  
 Bread Peddler  
 Camp Solomon  
 Capital Montessori School  
 Capital Place Retirement  
 City of Olympia  
 The Olympian  
 Domino's Pizza - Yelm  
 Eastside Preschool Co-Op  
 Emperor's Palace - Lacey  
 Espresso Parts/Peppers Restaurant  
 Evergreen Christian Community  
 Fatso's Tavern  
 Fishtale Brewpub  
 Halpern & Associates  
 Johnson's Custom Cut  
 Marshall Middle School  
 McKinney Elementary School  
 Mercato Ristorante/Market Center  
 New Bridge Church  
 New Market Skills Center  
 Occasions Catering  
 Olympia Farmers Market  
 Plenty Restaurant  
 Providence St. Peter Hospital  
 Rainier Pizza and Espresso  
 Ralph's Thriftway  
 Raven's Brew Coffee/Capital Electric  
 Red Lion Olympia Hotel  
 Rosemont Retirement Community  
 Round Table Pizza  
 Saint Martin's University  
 Saint Placid Priory  
 Sebastian's Best  
 South Puget Sound Community College  
 Subway - downtown Olympia  
 Temple Beth Hatfiloh  
 Top Foods - Lacey  
 Tumwater Hills Elementary School  
 U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
 Uptown Organics  
 Vic's Pizza  
 Wagner's European Bakery and Cafe  
 Washington State Dept. of Transportation  
 Westwood Baptist Church

Our Web site features the names of organizations that are making the earth-conscious, money-saving decision to recycle food scraps and food-soiled paper products. See the left navigation bar on [www.co.thurston.wa.us/wwm](http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/wwm). Are we missing the name of your business? Call Terri Thomas at 357-2491 or e-mail [thomaste@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:thomaste@co.thurston.wa.us).



Organics recycling is perfect for the hospitality industry.

## Businesses Step Up to the Plate

More than 55 businesses in Thurston County have stepped up to the plate by enrolling in a commercial food recycling program, and many more are lined up to start in the coming months.

Participation is easy! Food and compostable paper are simply tossed into an organics bin instead of a trash container. Organizations receive "how-to" posters and container labels that list what can and cannot go in the organics bin. The hauler collects the materials and delivers them to Silver Springs Organics to be turned into nutrient-rich compost. Staff assistance and training are also available upon request.

Organics recycling service is ideal for restaurants, schools, grocery stores, coffee shops and other businesses that generate large quantities of food waste, waxed cardboard, yard trimmings, and compostable paper.

The Evergreen State College and several public schools will begin the program this fall, including North Thurston High School, Pleasant Glade Elementary, Fort Stevens Elementary, East Olympia Elementary and four schools in the Rainier school district.

Even large office buildings are good candidates for the program. A recent waste audit at three state office buildings found that 45 percent of the materials in trash cans could have been recycled as organic materials instead of being thrown away.

Organizations served by LeMay Enterprises can sign up for organics service alone, or for the "Certified Green" recycling program, which offers bundled rates for garbage, recycling and organics service. For more information, call LeMay Enterprises at 486-8608 and ask for Julie.

The City of Olympia offers organics collection for Olympia businesses through the Olympia Composts! program. Call the city at 570-5837 for information.



South Puget Sound Culinary Arts students use the organics recycling bin.

### trash flash

**USED BOOKS:** Thurston County is home to dozens of excellent used book stores. Most of the stores will offer either cash or credit for used books, depending on their inventory and the condition of the books. You might even find a great bargain on your next page-turner. Also consider donating books to the Olympia Timberland Library on 8th Avenue during normal business hours. Donated books are sold to support the "Friends of the Library" program or placed on library shelves. Some unusable books are recycled.

## WasteMobile Schedule Revised

If your garage looks like a mini toxic waste dump, it's time to take action. Thurston County offers two programs to make it easy for residents to safely dispose of paints, glues, adhesives and other hazardous household products.

- HazoHouse is a permanent collection station located at the Waste and Recovery Center in Hawks Prairie. It is open Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- The WasteMobile is a travelling collection station that visits local communities two times a year.

In the past, the WasteMobile visited the Olympia/Tumwater area every fall. Unfortunately, this meant residents in other areas had access to the WasteMobile only every four years, even though they lived further from HazoHouse.

Thurston County Solid Waste has revised the WasteMobile schedule to better serve the growing population in more rural areas of the county, and to address limited funds for events. The next schedule is as follows:

#### Fall 2008

Rochester and Rainier (see back page)

#### Spring 2009

Summit Lake and Steamboat Island

#### Fall 2009

Tumwater or Olympia

We encourage residents from Lacey, Olympia and Tumwater to take advantage of HazoHouse. The facility is open four days, every week, so you won't have to worry about missing that one weekend event. Plus, unlike the WasteMobile, there are no lines! For details about HazoHouse, see page 7.

### trash flash

**METROPAINT:** Latex paint brought to HazoHouse is either placed in the SwapShop area for other people to use, or sent to MetroPaint in Portland. At MetroPaint, the paint is blended into a high-quality, 100 percent recycled product. MetroPaint was recently named one of the Top 10 Green Building Products of 2008 by Sustainable Industries magazine and is certified by Green Seal and the Master Painter's Institute. The paint comes in a variety of colors and is available for sale at BJ's Paint 'N Place on Capitol Boulevard in Tumwater.

# A World of Consumption

The products we buy every day come from the earth, and they return to the earth in one form or another. Our homes, cars, toys, electronics, clothing, jewelry and millions of other consumer items, including their packaging, come to us from production chains that stretch around the world.

Along this chain we withdraw raw materials, generate waste and consume energy in amounts too large for most of us to imagine. Massive volumes of natural resources are extracted to fuel the population's consumption habits, and this sometimes harms the ecosystems from which they come. Some say, we are living beyond our ecological means and destroying the very systems we need for life.

Americans in particular are busy accumulating more and more stuff. According to World Wildlife Fund Director-General James Leape, if everyone around the world lived as we do in the United States, we would need five planets to support us.

The Sierra Club Sustainable Consumption Committee estimates that over the course of his or her lifetime, a child born in the U.S. will drain as many resources as 35 natives of India, and will end up creating 13 times more ecological harm than a child born in Brazil.

It is clear that the earth's systems cannot sustain 6 billion people living and consuming at our current rate, especially when considering that 3 to 5 billion more people are expected to live on this planet over the next 50 years.

Excessive consumption is also causing environmental problems which disproportionately affect the poor and contribute to growing inequities and social conflict.

The good news is that consumers, industries, and governments around the world are paying more attention to the environmental impact of what they buy and use...and are taking action.

## trash flash

**RESOURCE CONSUMPTION:** A 1992 report by the Office of Technology Assessment found that for every ton of discarded products, about 71 tons of manufacturing, mining, oil and gas exploration, agricultural, coal combustion, and other discards are produced. For a fast-paced, fact-filled look at the impacts of our production and consumption patterns, watch the 20-minute online video titled "The Story of Stuff" at [www.storyofstuff.com](http://www.storyofstuff.com).

People everywhere are shifting their dollars to greener products and services, and choosing to live happily with less. The concepts of sustainable or ethical consumption and voluntary simplicity are going mainstream.

So what exactly is "sustainable consumption?" It means making spending decisions based on actual needs, and having a material standard of living that improves our quality of life without compromising our future.

Although the United States is the largest consumer of resources, we are also in the best position to make a difference. Americans are realizing that what's good for the earth is also good for the wallet. By consuming less, we can lower debt, reduce household clutter, ease our work stress, and enjoy more quality time with friends and family.

The term "sustainable consumption" may sound lofty, but it's really a value that can be woven into everyday decisions, from significant decisions about government land-use planning and economic incentives, to simple choices about which apples to buy at the market.

Whether your goal is to help save the planet or simply uplift the quality of your own life, the first step begins with gaining a deeper respect for our place in the world and the true cost of our consumer behavior.



# About your TV...

On February 17, all full-power television stations will broadcast over-the-air in digital format only. Many people are under the mistaken impression that they'll need to get rid of their old TVs when the law takes effect; however, the change will affect only TV sets that are analog AND that depend on an antennae for free reception.



If your TV fits in this category, you don't need to get rid of it. Converter boxes for analog TVs will be available in local stores and national chains such as Best Buy, Circuit City, Target, Wal-Mart and RadioShack. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration is providing coupons worth \$40 toward the price of a converter box. To apply for a coupon, call 1-888-388-2009 or visit [www.dtv2009.gov](http://www.dtv2009.gov).

If you pay a cable or satellite company for TV programming, the law won't affect you, regardless of the type of TV you have.

# Waste-Free Holidays

This holiday season, make a difference by supporting local businesses and giving experiences instead of stuff. From Nov. 15 through Dec. 31, local businesses will once again offer discounts on waste-free gifts such as certificates to concerts, plays, restaurants, massages, lessons and more. Details will be posted by Nov. 15 on [wastefreeholidays.com](http://wastefreeholidays.com).

If your business offers service or experience gifts and would like to participate, call Amber Wells at 754-3355 ext. 7669 or e-mail [wellsa@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:wellsa@co.thurston.wa.us).



Last year, 98 local businesses joined the Waste-Free Holidays program, and 6,000 people visited [wastefreeholidays.com](http://wastefreeholidays.com). Participating businesses reported combined sales of more than \$14,000. We hope even more businesses and residents enjoy the program this year.

# We Feel Honored

The Thurston County Solid Waste Education and Outreach Program was recently honored with the "Recycler of the Year" award from the Washington State Recycling Association. Candidates for the award included federal, state, county, city and tribal agencies in Washington.

Among other things, our educators were credited with the successful launch last year of the comingled curbside recycling program, promotion of the Waste-Free Holidays program, and a 42 percent increase in use of the [2good2toss.com](http://2good2toss.com) materials-exchange Web site.

We are grateful to all of you who reduce, reuse and then recycle. The award truly belongs to our entire community.

# Organics Pop Quiz

...which items belong in your organics bin?

Plastic straw



No

Paper fast-food wrapper



Yes

(provided there's no foil)

Plastic cups



No

(paper cups are ok)

Fruit sticker



No

(fruit is ok)

Ice cream carton



Yes

## trash flash

**E-CYCLING:** A new law requires manufacturers to provide electronic product recycling services at no cost to households, small businesses, charities, school districts, and small governments by Jan. 1, 2009. Only televisions, desktop computers, laptop computers, and monitors are included. Stay tuned for more details in the next edition of Talkin' Trash.



### Is Your Well “Well”?

If you have a well that supplies water to your home, you should test the water for bacteria at least once per year, and for nitrates at least once every three years. Fact sheets on water testing, common contaminants, and other drinking water topics are available at [www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehdw/water.html](http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehdw/water.html).

Water sample bottles for bacteria and nitrate tests may be picked up and dropped off at Thurston County Courthouse Building 1, Thurston County Public Health on Lilly Road, Yelm City Hall, Tenino City Hall, Rochester ROOF Community Center, and at Rainier Town Hall. Check our Web site or call 786-5465 for the hours of each site. Tests are \$22 each.

### Save Gas

If you must stop your car for more than 10 seconds, turn it off. An idling engine uses more fuel in ten seconds than restarting the car! According to the Department of Ecology, an idling engine consumes up to one gallon of fuel per hour. Idling a vehicle for 10 minutes a day uses an average of 22 gallons of gas per year.

Rather than idle your car in front of a school or drive-through, turn off the car, save gas, and reduce air pollution.

### A Deadly Mix

Bleach is often used for household cleaning, but it can take your breath away. Mixing chlorine bleach and ammonia creates deadly fumes. Harmful vapors can also result from mixing bleach with acids such as toilet bowl cleaners, drain cleaners, vinegar and lemon juice.

For basic cleaning, we recommend using a mild liquid or powdered soap instead of bleach. For laundry, use a non-chlorine “oxygen bleach.” For more tips on safer cleaning products see [www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehhm/saferproducts.html](http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehhm/saferproducts.html).

### Conquer Clutter

Have you ever searched for a tube of super glue or can of rust remover, certain you had one...but where? After digging through shelves, you drive to the store and purchase a replacement product.

Of course, during the next spring clean, all those half-used products appear and you end up taking them to HazoHouse for safe disposal as hazardous waste.

You can save yourself – and Thurston County – money by storing all of your hazardous materials in the same secure, dry area. Keep similar products together, ideally in a tub in case of spills.

## Traditional Bulbs to be Phased Out

The future is looking dim for incandescent light bulbs, the traditional bulbs that light most American homes. The federal Independence and Security Act of 2007 phases incandescents off the market beginning in 2012, and bans many of them by 2014. Bulbs that produce less than 40 watts or more than 150 watts are exempt from the ban, as well as several classes of specialty lights such as 3-way lights.

Many of us may grumble about changing to compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) for many reasons, including cost, compatibility with existing fixtures, and because they contain mercury. The bright side is that using more efficient lighting is one of the most cost-effective ways to cut energy use and greenhouse gases.



Use an empty six-pack container to store CFLs.

If you do decide to give those pig-tailed bulbs a try, keep the following in mind:

- CFLs do contain mercury. The amount is very small – about that of the amount of ink on the tip of a ballpoint pen, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- Because of their mercury content, CFLs should not be thrown in the garbage. Take fluorescent bulbs and tubes to Thurston County’s HazoHouse for recycling. (See page 7 for more information about HazoHouse.) HazoHouse is free for residents; businesses pay a fee.

Puget Sound Energy and Home Depot accept CFLs for no fee. Olympia Supply Company and the westside Olympia Ace Hardware accept both CFLs and tubes for a small fee.

- Visit [www.co.thurston.wa.us/wwm](http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/wwm) and click on the “hazardous waste” link for more details. (The link is under the topic “Recycling and Disposal.”)

### Play It Safe

- When changing a fluorescent light bulb, put down a drop cloth as a precaution. Mark the bulb with permanent marker to identify it easily, then place the bulb back in its original box. If you no longer have the box, individually wrap the bulbs in newspaper and put them in a cardboard box. (An empty cardboard six-pack container is a handy carrier.) Box labels are available from [www.ecy.wa.gov/mercury/documents/bulb\\_carrier\\_label.pdf](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/mercury/documents/bulb_carrier_label.pdf).

### If a Fluorescent Bulb Breaks...

- Open windows and leave the area for 15 to 30 minutes.
- When you clean up, remember two things: 1) never use a vacuum or broom, which will distribute the mercury and contaminate your equipment; and 2) wear protective clothing, such as old clothing, gloves, safety glasses and a dust mask (if you have one).
- Pick up and place large pieces in a sturdy disposable container (preferably glass) with a secure lid.
- Collect smaller fragments using a small, disposable brush (paintbrushes work well). Use stiff paper to scoop up the small pieces. Capture remaining fragments using tape.
- Finish by wiping the area with a damp cloth or paper towels.
- Put the container in a jar or Ziploc bag and mark it as a broken CFL, then take it to HazoHouse for disposal.

## Breathe Easier This Winter

Winter weather is just around the corner, and that means more time indoors with toxic household products like oven cleaners and carpet shampoo. Now is the perfect time to get rid of those unwanted roommates – before they spill, corrode or emit fumes. Consider these facts:

- Hazardous materials that drip or spill on the ground can wash into streams, rivers, lakes or Puget Sound, especially during a flood. They can also leach into the ground water – our source of drinking water. Keep hazardous materials in tubs to prevent spills.
- Hazardous materials increase the risk and severity of fires. Aerosol cans and other containers explode when exposed to high heat.

- Last year, more than 68,000 people contacted the Washington Poison Control Center (1-800-222-1222) because of concern about an exposure at home. Cleaning products were one of the leading reasons for such calls.
- The WasteMobile is visiting Rochester and Rainier in September. If you miss the events, you may still take hazardous wastes to HazoHouse every Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (See pages 7 and 8 for details.)
- Whew! You did it! Now take a deep breath knowing that your indoor air will be healthier this winter.



# Garbage and Recycling Resources

## Contacts

Talkin' Trash is produced by the Thurston County Department of Water and Waste Management. Phone 357-2491 or e-mail [wmm-webmaster@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:wmm-webmaster@co.thurston.wa.us). TDD: 754-2933.

## County Department of Water and Waste Management

Thurston County Solid Waste Administration: 357-2491. TDD: 754-2933

WasteLine: 786-5494  
(24-hour recorded information about solid waste and recycling)

Food Recycling Hotline:  
754-2953 (24-hour recorded message)

Web: [www.co.thurston.wa.us/wmm](http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/wmm)

"Where Should I Take My?" on the left navigation bar of [www.co.thurston.wa.us/wmm](http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/wmm).

Located at 929 Lakeridge Drive S.W., Bldg. 4, Room 100, Olympia, 98502

Other valuable Web sites:

Washington State Department of Ecology  
Recycle Assistance: [1800recycle.wa.gov](http://1800recycle.wa.gov).

## Curbside Collection (Haulers)

Thurston County does not own or operate garbage and recycling trucks. Call your service provider for information about collection schedules.

- Butler's Cove Refuse ..... 923-0111
- Eastern Grays Harbor (Summit Lake) ..... 923-0111
- Joe's Refuse ..... 736-4769 ..... or 1-800-525-4167
- Pacific Disposal ..... 923-0111
- Rural Refuse ..... 923-0111

The above companies are owned by Harold LeMay Enterprises. Yard waste collection service is also available in many of the service areas. Call for more information or visit [www.lemayinc.com](http://www.lemayinc.com).

- City of Olympia residents, call 753-8368 or visit [www.olympiawa.gov](http://www.olympiawa.gov). Olympia provides its own trash, recycling and organics collection service.
- City of Rainier residents, call 923-0111 for curbside trash and recycling service.
- Town of Bucoda residents, call 278-3525 to arrange for curbside trash and recycling service.

## County Public Health and Social Services, Environmental Health

Phone: 754-4111 or TDD: 754-2933

Web: [www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehadm](http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehadm)

Gardening guides: [www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehcsg](http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehcsg)

Healthy home advice: [www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehhm](http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehhm)

Located at 929 Lakeridge Drive S.W., Room 113, Olympia, WA 98502. Send mail to 2000 Lakeridge Drive S.W., Olympia, WA 98502.

## Recycle Blue Boxes

### Locations

Tumwater: 3400 25th Ave. S.W. (off of Mottman Road in Tumwater)

Lacey: College Street Safeway, 4700 Yelm Highway S.E.

Lacey: Thurston County Waste and Recovery Center, 2418 Hogum Bay Road N.E.

Steamboat Island: William's Island Market, 3403 Steamboat Island Road N.W.

Yelm: City of Yelm Public Works Building, 901 Rhoton Road

Rochester: Rochester Garbage Drop Box site, 16500 Sargent Road. Open Tuesdays, Saturdays and Sundays only.

Bucoda: Town of Bucoda, Main Street and E. 5th (cardboard recycling only)

Rainier: Rainier Garbage Drop Box site, 13010 Rainier Acres Road S.E. Open Fridays and Saturdays only.

Summit Lake: Summit Lake Garbage Drop Box site, 12133 Summit Lake Drive. Open Sundays only.

### Items Accepted at Blue Boxes

Thurston County's blue recycle boxes accept:

- Newspaper
- Glass bottles and jars
- Tin and aluminum cans
- Mixed paper
- Plastic dairy tubs, yogurt cups, jugs, jars, and bottles
- Milk cartons and drink boxes
- Corrugated cardboard

All materials should be placed loose in the boxes – no paper or plastic bags (with the exception of shredded paper strips, which should be placed in a paper bag).

## Compost Bins

Reduced-price compost bins are available through the Thurston County Master Gardener Foundation. Bins include the Earth Machine for \$40 each, and the Biostack bin for \$60 each. The bins are subsidized by the Thurston County Solid Waste Program for county residents. The price includes tax and delivery within Thurston County. Call 481-4204 or visit: [www.compostbinthurstoncounty.com](http://www.compostbinthurstoncounty.com).

The Master Gardener Foundation also sells countertop compost containers for the kitchen. Click the "accessories" link to view the products.

## Exchange Web Sites

The following Web sites provide an excellent way to sell or give away items in good condition. While you're there, you might just find some good deals on items you need.

- Thurston County's free online exchange program: [www.2good2toss.com](http://www.2good2toss.com)
- Craig's List: [seattle.craigslist.org/oly](http://seattle.craigslist.org/oly)
- FreeCycle: [www.freecycle.org](http://www.freecycle.org)
- Used Olympia: [www.usedolympia.com](http://www.usedolympia.com)

## Our Facilities

### Thurston County Waste and Recovery Center

Located at 2418 Hogum Bay Road. From I-5: take the Marvin Road exit (Exit 111) and head north. Turn right onto Hogum Bay Road. The center will be on your right.

### Rates (through 12/31/08)

one ton = 2,000 lbs

### Garbage

Less than 400 lbs ..... \$14  
400 lbs or more ..... \$76 per ton, prorated  
(One ton is 2,000 pounds, so the per-ton garbage rate is 3.8 cents per pound.) For refrigerated appliances, add a \$14 handling fee to the rate above. For TVs and computer monitors, add a \$15 handling fee to the rate above. Rates include 3.6 percent state refuse tax and tollhouse fee.

### Yard Debris

Less than 400 lbs ..... \$7 per ton  
400 lbs or more: ..... \$38 per ton, prorated  
(One ton is 2,000 pounds, so the per-ton yard waste rate is 1.9 cents per pound.)

There is no state refuse tax on yard waste.

### Hours

#### Weekdays:

Nov. 1 to March 31 ..... 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
April 1 to Oct. 31 ..... 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

#### Saturdays and Sundays

Year round ..... 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## Garbage/Recycling Drop Boxes

**Rainier:** 13010 Rainier Acres Road S.E. Friday and Saturday only, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (until 5 p.m. April 1 to Oct. 31)

**Rochester:** 16500 Sargent Road S.E. Tuesday, Saturday and Sunday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Summit Lake:** 12133 Summit Lake Drive Sunday only, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## Holidays

The Waste and Recovery Center, HazoHouse and all Drop Boxes are closed on the following holidays only: Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, and July Fourth.

**Are you storing dangerous and unwanted hazardous products in your home?**

**TAKE THEM TO HAZOHOUSE!**

Open Friday-Monday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

HazoHouse offers FREE, safe and convenient disposal of most household hazardous products.

Located next to the recycling area of the Thurston County Waste and Recovery Center, 2418 Hogum Bay Road N.E. in Lacey.



# Coming Soon...

## Mark Your Calendar for These Events

### SEPTEMBER: Community Recycle Days

Thurston County's Community Recycle Days offer an easy way to recycle a variety of household items at reduced rates.

**Saturday, Sept. 20** – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
South Sound Speedway  
3720 183rd Ave. S.W. in Tenino

**Saturday, Sept. 27** – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Thurston County Fairgrounds  
3054 Carpenter Road S.E. near Lacey  
Event will be in the lower parking lot

Community Recycle Days serves Thurston County residents only, not commercial vendors or businesses.

Visitors will be asked to supply the short form below to help us track inventory. To get a head start, please bring the completed form to the events.

For more information, visit our Web site at: [www.co.thurston.wa.us/www](http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/www) or call 357-2491 or TDD at 754-2933.

### SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER: Compost Workshops

Discover how to compost at the following free workshops. No registration is required. Compost bins and bin plans will be available at the workshops. Bins are also sold at a discount through [www.compostbinthurstoncounty.com](http://www.compostbinthurstoncounty.com) (see page 7 for details). Workshops will be held on the following Saturdays:

**Sept. 20:** Olympia Farmers Market

- Yard waste composting  
10:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.
- Food waste  
11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**Oct. 18:** Dirt Works

"Leaf Composting Basics" from 10 a.m. to noon

#### Locations

Olympia Farmers Market is located at the north end of Capitol Way in downtown Olympia.

Dirt Works is located on Alta Drive, off Capitol Mall Drive behind Yauger Park in west Olympia.

### DECEMBER: Free Christmas Tree Recycling

The Waste and Recovery Center will recycle Christmas trees free of charge from Dec. 26 to Jan. 11. (The center is closed New Year's Day.) Tree recycling may also be available at the staffed Rainier and Rochester drop box sites, in the City of Yelm, and through your garbage hauler. Visit the recycling link of [www.co.thurston.wa.us/www](http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/www) for updated information in December.

### HOLIDAY SCHEDULE:

The Thurston County Waste and Recovery Center and the drop boxes at Rainier, Rochester and Summit Lake will be closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day and the Fourth of July.



Recycle your old telephone book in your comingled recycle bin or at a blue box location. Check out the Brown Pages of the new Dex phone book for information about garbage and recycling services.

#### PLEASE FILL OUT THE INFORMATION BELOW FOR YOUR ITEMS AND GIVE IT TO THE STAFF WHEN YOU ARRIVE AT THE EVENT

ITEM	PRICE EACH	QUANTITY	ROW TOTAL
Tires - passenger vehicles - without rim	\$2		\$
Tires - passenger vehicles - with rim	\$3		\$
Tires - tractor size (prices for larger tires will be determined on site by the vendor)	\$10		\$
Refrigerators, Freezers, Air Conditioners (maximum 4 per vehicle)	\$15		\$
Stoves, Washers, Dryers, Hot Water Tanks, Microwaves (NO dishwashers accepted)	\$5		\$
Televisions, Computer Monitors, Laptops	\$15		\$
CPUs, Fax Machines, Printers, Scanners, Copiers (under 50 lbs)	\$5		\$
CD & DVD Players, VCRs, Stereo Systems, Radios, Speakers	\$2		\$
Keyboards, Computer Mice, All Types of Phones, Printed Circuit Boards	FREE		FREE
Power Tools, Push or Riding Lawn Mowers, Bicycles, Small Gas Motors (including chain saw, weed trimmer, outboard boat motor)	FREE		FREE
Goodwill Donations (small furniture, clothes, working small kitchen appliances, kitchenware)	FREE		FREE
Scrap Metal (including de-valved propane tanks)	FREE		FREE
Flower Pots (2 gal. or larger, clean & unbroken)	FREE		FREE
		GRAND TOTAL:	\$

### SEPTEMBER: WasteMobile in Rochester & Rainier

Dispose of hazardous household products at the next WasteMobile events:

**Saturday, Sept. 13** – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Rochester Middle School  
9937 Highway 12 S.W.

**Sunday, Sept. 14** – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Silver Springs Organics  
13835 Military Road S.E. in Rainier

**We WILL accept:** oil and latex paints; glues and adhesives; pesticides and herbicides; car and household batteries; antifreeze; motor oil and filters; cleaners and polishes; pool and hobby chemicals; thinners and solvents; and fluorescent light bulbs and tubes. These items will be accepted free for residents.

**We WILL NOT accept:** garbage, electronics (take electronics to Community Recycle Days), yard waste, appliances, computers, monitors, medical wastes, explosives, ammunition, propane tanks, empty or leaking containers, business wastes, smoke detectors or radioactive materials.

### OCTOBER: Septic Sense Workshops

Learn tips to prolong the life of your septic system at these free workshops. Register online at: [www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehoss/wkshp\\_sch.html](http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehoss/wkshp_sch.html) or call Thurston County Environmental Health at 754-4111. TDD: 754-2933. Participants will get a \$10 discount on pumping.

**Wednesday, Oct. 1** – 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.  
Lacey Fire Station #34  
8407 Steilacoom Road N.E.

**Wednesday, Oct. 8** – 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.  
(This workshop is for residents who have a sand filter or mound system.)  
South Bay Fire Station  
3506 Shincke Road N.E., Olympia

**Thursday, Oct. 16** – 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.  
Thurston County Courthouse  
Building 1, Room 152  
2000 Lakeridge Drive S.W., Olympia

**Wednesday, Oct. 22** – 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.  
Yelm Fire Station  
709 Mill Road, Yelm

