



Produced by the Thurston County Department of Water and Waste Management, Solid Waste Program

talkin' TRASH

Tips on Reducing, Recycling and Properly Disposing of Your Trash

Talkin' Trash ...and more

Welcome to a new edition of Talkin' Trash! We've expanded Talkin' Trash from four pages to eight to provide more information on programs and local resources you can use year-round to reduce waste. Thurston County Environmental Health now has its own page filled with information on using less toxic products, avoiding accidental poisonings and more. The fall 2007 edition will have an updated look to go with the new content...so stay tuned!

Now that we have more pages, please feel free to suggest topics you'd like to see in upcoming editions. Contact Terri Thomas at thomaste@co.thurston.wa.us or call 754-2896.



Thurston County resident David Andrews prepares for curbside service.

Curbside Changes Boost Recycling

Get out the champagne glasses and then recycle the bottle (in a separate bin, of course)! The new comingled recycling service has started off with a bang. Haulers have already seen an increase in the amount of materials recycled at the curb. If your new bin hasn't arrived yet, don't worry; it should arrive very soon.

Those of you who recently received a new bin may wonder how you will fill such a large container. Since you're accustomed to separating materials into separate bins and containers, you may not realize the total amount of material you actually set out for collection. Residents in other areas who have switched to this program have been surprised at how quickly they fill the container. Plus, we've added new recyclable items and hope to add even more in the future. (See page 7 for a list of recyclable items.)

We will share more results from the new recycling program in the next edition of Talkin' Trash. If you live in Olympia or Rainier, this new program does not affect you. Bucoda is considering adopting the new system. We'll also conduct a survey to evaluate your satisfaction with your hauler, the containers, and the program.

Flexibility in service

If you have physical limitations or other issues that make the 96-gallon container difficult to use, please contact your hauler. The haulers offer a variety of options and will work with you to come up with the best solution. The first exchange of containers will be free of charge. An exchange fee will apply if you decide to make an additional change. Recycle rates are the same for all sizes of recycle bins.

Phone lines are busy as the haulers help customers during this roll-out of 47,000 containers, so your patience is appreciated. You'll find phone numbers on page 7.

The commodity credit

The "commodity credit" often goes unnoticed on garbage/recycling bills, but it's a nice reward for recycling. Simply put, the commodity credit is based on the market share of recyclables collected at the curb, divided among all curbside customers. So the more curbside customers recycle as a group, the higher the collective commodity credit is on the monthly bills. Also, individual garbage bills may go down if customers recycle enough to switch to a smaller size garbage can or less frequent service.

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PLASTIC BAGS: Plastic bags aren't accepted in most recycling programs because they tend to get tangled in the sorting machines used for plastic containers; however, the material is very valuable and very recyclable. A number of grocery stores have collection containers by their front doors. You can place all types of clean plastic film in the containers, including grocery bags, dry-cleaning bags and clean bread and produce bags. Generally, if you can poke your finger through the plastic bag easily, it's recyclable.



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929 Lakeridge Dr. S.W.
Olympia, WA 98502-6045

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Since You Asked!



How can I recycle an electric hot water tank?

There are several options for recycling a hot water tank. The tank may be recycled for \$5 at Thurston County's Community Recycle Days (see "Coming Soon" on the back page). You may also recycle the tank at the Thurston County Waste and Recovery Center on Hogum Bay Road; however, regular garbage rates will apply. If you take the tank to the Waste and Recovery Center, please place it in the scrap metal bin. Another option is to take the tank to a scrap metal recycling company.

Does HazoHouse accept photo chemicals?

Yes, photo processing chemicals are gladly accepted at HazoHouse free of charge.

Where can I recycle an 18-year-old Encyclopedia Britannica?

Consider posting the encyclopedias on www.2good2toss.com, www.freecycle.org, or seattle.craigslist.org/oly. These sites are free to use, and you just might find a willing taker. You may also recycle the encyclopedias through the curbside recycling program. Please recycle only a few at a time; otherwise, the encyclopedias may affect the quality of the load of paper. Encyclopedias may also be dropped off at Thurston County recycle blue boxes (see "Resources" on page 7). This advice also applies to outdated, hardbound text books.

Where can I recycle plastic kitty litter buckets? I have set them out with my regular recycling and they never pick them up.

Great question! The large, plastic buckets that contain kitty litter or detergents are not recyclable in Thurston County. In fact, very few programs in the country accept this type of rigid, plastic container. Your best bet is to find ways to reuse the buckets, or make them available through www.2good2toss.com, www.freecycle.org, or seattle.craigslist.org/oly. The good news is that if you buy kitty litter in cardboard boxes in the future, you can easily recycle the container. Please cut off the plastic handles before recycling the box.

Is it ok to take carpets and carpet pads to the Waste and Recovery Center?

Yes, carpets and pads are accepted at the Waste and Recovery Center for disposal at the regular garbage rate of \$72.46 per ton (plus tollhouse fee and tax). Unfortunately we don't have a carpet recycle facility nearby.

How to Recycle a Dead Mouse ...and other technology hardware

How many of you have an old computer, VCR, cell phone or TV hiding somewhere in your house? You know you will never use it again, but what are you supposed to do with it? Fortunately, a growing number of options are available to Thurston County residents and businesses.

While electronics make up a very small percentage of the garbage collected in Thurston County, the figure is dramatically increasing each year. The main concern is that electronic products often contain hazardous and toxic materials that pose environmental risks if they are placed in a landfill.

If you have working electronic items of any type, try listing them on www.2good2toss.com. Thurston County is part of this free statewide materials exchange Web site. The site is updated daily, and you can post listings for a wide array of items that you'd like to sell or find.

While your old computer system may seem outdated, many families would welcome having an older version for their children. Other items like TVs, VCRs and video games also fly off the Web site quickly. All items must be under \$99, and if you really want to get rid of an item fast, simply list it for free.

Other online materials exchange sites are:

- Craig's List at seattle.craigslist.org/oly.
- FreeCycle at www.freecycle.org (go to Olympia/Thurston County site).
- Olympia Classifieds through the Thurston County Community Bulletin Board groups at groups.yahoo.com/group/olympiaclassifieds.

FREE GEEK in Olympia accepts all computers (working or not) for free, along with small items like mice, scanners, keyboards, and routers. Monitors are \$10 and fax machines and printers are \$5. Items that weigh more than 30 pounds are charged at 20 cents per pound. Call 705-9999. (Free Geek will soon change its name to "Computer Recycling Education and Training.")

Sound Computer Service in Tumwater accepts working computers, mice, keyboards, routers, printers, and scanners for free. Monitors are occasionally accepted as well – please call to confirm, 705-9903.

Fourth Dimension Computers in Olympia accepts working and nonworking computers free of charge. Printers and monitors are also accepted, but only if they're in working order. Call 357-5169.

PC Salvage in Tacoma accepts anything electronic for a fee, working or nonworking. PC Salvage can be reached at 1-866-341-8003 or on allaboutpcsalvage.com.

Computers for Learning provides a quick and easy way for businesses and government agencies to donate computer equipment to schools and educational nonprofits at computers.fed.gov/Public/aboutProg.asp.

Wilderness Technology Alliance is another organization that accepts donations for youth programs at www.wildtech.org/donate.htm.

Schools, local governments, and nonprofit organizations that are part of the Washington State Purchasing Contract (WSPC) have some additional options for donating and recycling computer equipment. For a complete list of members on the WSPC list and an eligibility form, go to www.ga.wa.gov/purchase.

For disposal of computer equipment (hopefully you've donated the working ones first) WSPC members may use state contract #11601. For more information, go to www.ga.wa.gov/purchase/search-contracts.htm and type in 11601 under contract number.

State agencies and state funded institutions, such as community colleges, may donate equipment to K-12 schools at www.k12.wa.us/c4kids/default.aspx.

Businesses that have large quantities of equipment (or other materials) may also want to check on IMEX, the Industrial Materials Exchange. IMEX is like free classified advertising for business industrial waste, matching up waste generators with waste users. Visit www.govlink.org/hazwaste/business/imex/ and go to "View IMEX Listings."



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STATE LAW REQUIRES RECYCLING OPPORTUNITIES: In 2006, the Washington State Legislature approved a law that requires manufacturers of computers, computer monitors, laptops, portable computers and televisions to provide free recycling services to residents, small businesses, small local governments, charities and school districts (RCW 70.985N). Manufacturers must make the recycling services available by Jan. 1, 2009 (WAC 173-900). We will keep you posted as the new requirements take effect.

Recycle CDs, DVDs and VHS

Take a quick look around your workplace. Chances are, you'll see piles of old compact disks that make you walk down (or flee from) memory lane. In fact, compact disks have been difficult to recycle in the past, and unless you're good at making CD drink coasters, the piles keep getting larger.

Today, the Sammamish-based GreenDisk company is making it easy to recycle CDs, VHS tapes, DVDs and other types of technotrash. For a single price, GreenDisk provides "technotrash cans" that can hold up to 70 lbs. of materials. The cans are actually sturdy boxes that fold into self-mailers, and the cost of the shipping is included in the price.

Technotrash boxes may be used to collect all forms of electronic media and their cases: diskettes, zip disks, CDs, CD-Rs, CD-RWs, DVDs, video tape, audio tape, game cartridges, DAT, DLT and virtually all other computer tapes. The information on the materials is completely destroyed and the materials are then either refurbished or recycled.

Other types of electronics, such as cell phones, rechargeable batteries, pagers and computer accessories may also be placed in the technotrash bin. Even those old floppy disks gathering dust can be recycled.

To contact GreenDisk, call 800-305-DISK or visit www.greendisk.com. If you have technotrash at home, but not enough to fill a GreenDisk can, you may send the materials to GreenDisk in your own box and pay a small fee to have the data erased and materials recycled.

Batteries

To recycle batteries and battery-operated devices at your workplace, consider "The Big Green Box." The Big Green Box is designed for alkaline, lithium, nickel cadmium, nickel metal hydride, lithium ion, and other household batteries. It can also be used to collect cell phones, pagers, PDAs, MP3s, chargers, portable tools, laptops, and any other devices that are designed to operate on battery power. Like GreenDisk, the Big Green Box transforms into a self-mailer and shipping fees are included in the price of the box. Visit www.biggreenbox.com or call toll-free 714-278-9280. Thurston County's HazoHouse also accepts all types of batteries free of charge. (See page 7 for HazoHouse information.)



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SEE HOW THURSTON COUNTY DOES IT: Thurston County is using both the Technotrash Can and Big Green Box as part of its workplace recycling program. If you are interested in seeing what the bins look like, call the Thurston County Solid Waste Program at 357-2491.

Don't Make Our Blue Boxes Blue

Thurston County provides several recycling blue boxes where residents can drop off recyclables free of charge. The county is able to provide this service because private property owners graciously allow us to use their sites. A littered site jeopardizes these partnerships, and some sites have been closed because of litter problems. Please do your part to keep the sites clean.

- Pick up your litter.
- Place materials in the proper boxes.
- Drop off only those items listed as "recyclable" on the box stickers.
- If boxes are full, do not leave materials on the ground.
- Report illegal dumping by calling Thurston County Solid Waste at 754-3355 ext. 6785. Illegal dumpers will be prosecuted.

Future changes at blue boxes

When you visit the blue box locations, please pay close attention to the instruction signs. Currently, glass, tin and aluminum all go together in one bin, and plastics go in another bin. In the near future, the process for sorting materials at the blue boxes will be simplified: plastics, tin and aluminum will share the same box, and glass will be separate. We don't have a set date yet, so just be aware that the change is coming and keep an eye on the container labels. See page 7 for information about recycling at blue boxes.



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RECYCLE BLUE BOXES NOW AVAILABLE NEAR MOTTMAN ROAD: The blue recycling boxes formerly located at Top Foods in west Olympia have been temporarily relocated to 3400 25th Ave. S.W. off of Mottman Road in Tumwater. Mottman Road turns into 25th Avenue near Mottman Industrial Park. A map to the new location is available at www.co.thurston.wa.us/www/Recycling/blue_bins.htm. The 25th Avenue location is a temporary site while Thurston County continues to search for a permanent location.

Event Recycling Made Clear



Thurston County Solid Waste has received a grant from the Washington State Department of Ecology to purchase ClearStream event-recycling containers for the towns, cities, universities, colleges, and high schools of Thurston County.

We tested the new ClearStream containers at the 2006 Thurston County Fair and they were quite successful. The containers are foldable, lightweight metal frames with plastic lids. The frames hold clear plastic bags, so it's obvious whether people are recycling or contaminating the container with trash. The bins work well – there was virtually no contamination in the 30 containers at the fair.

With the new grant, our goal is to provide the above organizations with containers to use for their own events and possibly loan out to other groups as well. The response from most high schools has been very positive and many plan on using them in lunch areas and at campus sporting events and dances.

To learn more about the containers, go to www.clearstreamrecycler.com or contact Terri Thomas at 754-2896 or thomaste@co.thurston.wa.us.

Clothes Hangers

If wire hangers are tangling up your closet, consider taking them to Community Recycle Days in May. The hangers will be accepted as scrap metal free of charge. (See the back page calendar for details.)

Several local dry cleaners will also accept wire hangers, even if the hangers are from another service. Call your favorite dry cleaner and ask – chances are, you'll be happily surprised by the answer!

SafePlace accepts plastic hangers only. Please deliver plastic hangers when the SafePlace office is open: 9 a.m. to noon Monday through Friday, and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday. SafePlace is located at 314 Legion Way S.E. in downtown Olympia.

Bins at a Glance

The Earth Machine and Biostack bins may be used to compost food and yard waste. For food waste, simply attach a galvanized ¼-inch screen to the bottom of the bin to keep out pests.



Earth Machine



Biostack



Green Cone

(The Green Cone is a great way to reduce food waste, however, it does not create compost for the garden.)



Rubbermaid worm bins are sold at composting workshops.

Spring into Composting!

Residents, start your compost!

Did you know that you can divert about 23 percent of your trash by composting kitchen and yard waste – and save money with a smaller trash can? To get you started down the path to composting, Thurston County offers bin sales and composting classes in partnership with the Master Gardener Foundation.

Earth Machine and Biostack

The Solid Waste Program subsidizes Earth Machine and Biostack bins to make them more affordable for residents. The bins are sold through the Thurston County Master Gardener Foundation. Prices include home delivery in Thurston County. (There is a limit of three bins per household.) Current prices are:

- Earth Machine bins: \$35 each (an \$86 value).
- Biostack bins: \$55 each (a \$140 value).

There are three ways to order:

1. Online at www.compostbinthurstoncounty.com. (Credit cards are accepted online.)
2. By mail. Simply send a check, your name and address, and the quantity and type of bin you are ordering to: MGFTC (Master Gardener Foundation Thurston County), P.O. Box 66, Rainier WA 98576. (Order forms can be found on the above Web site.)
3. By phone. Call 481-4204 to order and pay by credit card.

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COMPOSTABLE ITEMS IN THE TRASH. According to a 2004 waste audit, approximately 31 percent of residential garbage in Thurston County is material that could be composted (17 percent food waste, 5 percent yard waste and 9 percent compostable paper).

Green Cone and worm bins

Green Cones are \$30 each (a \$160 value) and are available at compost workshops or on Saturdays at Closed Loop Park. To make arrangements to pick up a Green Cone, call the Master Gardener Foundation at 481-4204. Closed Loop Park is located near the entrance to the Thurston County Waste and Recovery Center, 2418 Hogum Bay Road N.E. near Lacey.

Rubbermaid worm bins are \$10 each and are sold at workshops only.

For questions regarding bin sales, call the Master Gardener Foundation or the Master Gardener hotline at 786-5445 ext. 7908. Prices are subject to change.

Compost workshops

Master Composters provide FREE compost workshops each year from spring through fall. See the back page calendar for details. To receive free publications on composting, visit www.co.thurston.wa.us/wwwm and select the "Free Guides" button at the top.



Michelle Andrews of Thurston County Solid Waste demonstrates the Biostack bin.

Recycle Those Water Bottles

These days, the sight of a water bottle in someone's hand has become as common as a cell phone. Health-conscious Americans are consuming water from disposable plastic bottles at a rate of more than 70 million bottles each day.

While bottled water is healthy to drink, plastic water bottles are harming the environment. In 2004, about one in six plastic water bottles sold in the U.S. was recycled. The rest end up in landfills or incinerators, and millions litter America's streets, parks and waterways.



So why the poor recycling rate for water bottles? Most bottled water is consumed away from home, usually at a park, in an office or in the car — areas where there's often no recycling. Instead of holding onto the bottle and recycling it at home, many people toss it in the trash.

Next time you're enjoying bottled water away from home, keep the bottle until you can get to a recycling bin. Better yet, give your tap a turn; fill a reusable bottle with tap water. These small steps may help avert a big environmental problem.

(Portions excerpted from "Down the Drain: Plastic Water Bottles Should No Longer Be a Wasted Resource," May/June 2006 edition of Waste Management World.)

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LITTER: From July through September 2006, work crews and volunteers collected more than 20 tons of bagged litter within Thurston County along I-5 (including interchanges), rest stops, medians and Thurston County right-of-ways. One ton is 2,000 pounds, so you can imagine the piles of coffee cups, needles, fast-food bags and other trash that are defacing our county. If you see somebody litter, please note the license plate number and call the Washington State Department of Ecology Litter Hotline at 866-548-8371 (866-LITTER1).

What to Recycle at the Curb

YES

Mixed waste paper (including sticky notes)
Magazines and catalogs
Newspaper (including glossy ads)
Telephone books
Junk mail (including envelopes with plastic windows)
Cardboard
Cereal and other dry food boxes (remove waxed liner)
Paper bags and sacks
Frozen food boxes **New!**
Milk cartons and juice boxes
Shredded paper (only if placed in a paper bag)
Gift wrap (no shiny foil wrapping)
Aluminum and tin cans
Soda cans
Aluminum foil (must be clean)
Pots and pans
Dairy tubs (such as butter, cottage cheese, sour cream) **New!**
Yogurt cups **New!**
Plastic jugs
Plastic jars
Plastic bottles

Glass (collected separately - do not place in the wheeled bin)



NO

Tissue paper, toilet paper, paper towels and napkins
Cardboard or paper that is waxed or plastic coated
Used paper cups or plates
Ice cream cartons
Frozen juice containers
Pizza boxes and other food-soiled papers and cardboard
Scrap metal
Foil juice pouches
Aerosol cans
Microwave cookware
Meat, bakery, vegetable trays and lids
Plastic bags
Takeout containers (usually clear or black plastic)
Cups, plates or utensils
Pill bottles
Lids or caps from plastic bottles and tubs
Styrofoam
Ceramic, porcelain, china dishes, cups
Window, plate and mirror glass
Light bulbs
Wire clothes hangers or scrap metal
Batteries
Tires
Food waste
Containers that held toxic materials ("danger, warning or caution" on the label)



Volunteer to Make a Difference

The Thurston County Water and Waste Management Department coordinates two volunteer organizations that help protect our environment. We are always looking for new members to join the fun!

Stream Team volunteers help protect and enhance local streams, creeks, rivers and other water resources. For example, volunteers help monitor local streams, stencil storm drains, and plant trees along stream banks. Contact Thurston County Stream Team Coordinator Chris Maun at 754-3355 ext.6377 or maunc@co.thurston.wa.us.

Master Recyclers learn about recycling during 18 hours of classroom and field training, and then "pay back" 36 hours in volunteer activities. Participants have volunteered time at recycling events, information booths, local schools and businesses. Master Recycler classes are held every spring. The 2007 class has ended; however, Thurston County can notify you when enrollment opens for 2008. Contact Diana Wadley at 786-5269 or wadleyd@co.thurston.wa.us or visit www.co.thurston.wa.us/www/Recycling/master_recyclers.htm.

WSU Thurston County Extension offers a Master Composter program. Call 786-5445 ext. 7910.

Help Us Reach You

Word-of-mouth is a very effective outreach method, so Thurston County Solid Waste wants to increase the number of people who are chatting about recycling programs!

We are creating a list of organizations to e-mail with occasional updates on recycling programs. Your information will NOT be shared with any other entity or used for any other purpose. We welcome any group interested in getting e-mail updates, however, we are particularly interested in hearing from:

- Employers: We send updates to contacts at several local businesses and governmental agencies. The contacts then forward the e-mail messages to employees. This has been very successful.
- Nonprofit organizations, churches and community groups: Organizations such as these tend to share information in bulletins and at meetings.
- Homeowners' associations: Many associations print and post information in a central location or distribute copies at meetings.
- Realtor and other community newsletters: Some small communities and a realtor include our information in their newsletters. We hear their readers really appreciate the news... and so do we!

Send us your contact information and we will add you to our list. Please contact Terri Thomas at 754-2896 or thomaste@co.thurston.wa.us.

Olympia Recycling Differs

The above instructions apply to residents who receive curbside recycling service from Pacific Disposal and other companies owned by LeMay, Inc. Customers on Olympia's garbage and recycling service recycle a little differently.

Established in 2003, Olympia's single stream recycling program remains the same: glass and aerosol cans inside the cart, but no dairy tubs please. Olympia customers should follow the guidelines provided by their utility.

A comprehensive list of what is and is not recyclable in Olympia can be found at www.olympiawa.gov. Just click the

following links: City Utilities, Garbage and Recycling, At Home, and then Recycling Information.





Toxics Tip

Planning to do some spring cleaning? The "Healthy Home Companion" gives advice on how to make your home spic-and-span with less toxic products. The guide includes green cleaning recipes and details on how to use Thurston County's HazoHouse. To request this and other guides, call 754-4111 or visit www.co.thurston.wa.us/wwm and go to "Free Guides."

Garden Tour, July 28, 2007

This year's Garden Rhapsodies Tour will be held Saturday, July 28 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Seven beautiful gardens will open their gates for this one-day event. The tour offers a chance to learn from WSU Master Gardeners, see natural gardening techniques, listen to live music, and view artists in action. Tickets will be available in July at local nurseries and by contacting Jennifer Johnson at 754-3355 ext. 7631.

Go Slug Hunting

This is a great time of year for slug hunting! Early morning or at night with a flashlight is the best time to find slugs hiding under leaves, cardboard, or garden debris. If you don't have the stomach for slug hunting, choose a product with iron phosphate (less toxic than metaldehyde), such as "Worry-free," "Sluggo," or "Escar-go!" Look for labels that say "safe for pets and wildlife." Read and follow label instructions carefully.

Natural Yard Days

From April 15 through May 15, local stores will offer discounts of up to 25 percent on natural yard care products through "Northwest Natural Yard Days." Products include: electric mulch mowers, push mowers, fertilizer, compost and mulch, water wands and soaker hoses, insecticidal soap, weed pullers, and less toxic moss and slug controls. Visit www.yarddays.com for a list of stores, or contact us at the phone number below.

Contact Us

Thurston County
Public Health and Social Services
Environmental Health Division
2000 Lakeridge Drive S.W.
Olympia, WA 98502
360-754-4111
TDD 360-754-2933

www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehhm
Gardening Guides: www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehcsg

You Asked For It!

Answers to your lawn care questions

In the spring, people start to think about gardening and call us for advice about fertilizing the lawn. Below are answers to some of the more commonly asked questions. Happy gardening!

What kind of fertilizer should I use?

We recommend slow-release fertilizer the grass can use for a longer period of time. Labels will say something like, "natural, organic, slow-release," and/or "long lasting." Lawn fertilizers are a mix of nitrogen, potassium and phosphorous. The ratio will be printed on the package as three numbers. Good proportions to look for are 10-2-6 or 5-2-4. Read and follow label instructions on the fertilizer bags. Also, you can supply up to half of a lawn's fertilizing needs by leaving grass clippings on the ground every time you mow.

What about weed and feed?

When choosing a fertilizer, be aware that many brands (called "weed and feed") also have one or more pesticides to kill weeds. Even if you have weeds in your lawn, it is wasteful to spread a weed killer over the entire area. Children and pets playing on lawns are then exposed to pesticides, which also get tracked inside where they don't break down easily. The most economical use of a weed killer is to spot-spray weeds directly with a least-toxic weed killer. Always read and follow label instructions since anything that kills weeds can also affect your health and the environment.

When is the right time to fertilize?

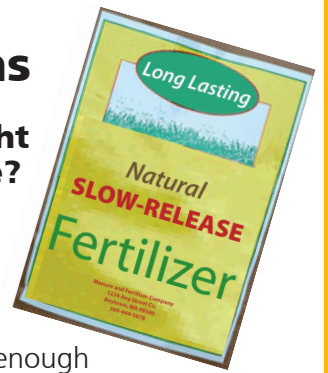
- Start applying natural, slow-release fertilizer in mid- to late May after the soil has warmed up enough to use the nutrients. Fertilize again in early September to prepare the grass for winter's stresses. Remember: Leaving grass clippings on the lawn can count for one or more fertilizer applications. Over-fertilized lawns are more prone to disease, thatch build up, and drought damage.

What is slow-release fertilizer?

- Slow-release fertilizers are formulated to be broken down gradually by microbes in the soil. Natural, slow-release fertilizers are made from bonemeal, fishmeal, composted manure, limestone, or rock phosphate. Grass is able to use these nutrients over a longer period of time. Less fertilizer is wasted by soaking into ground water or running off into streams.

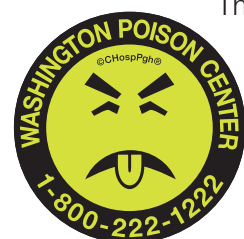
How should I deal with weeds?

- Long-handled weed tools are a good option and work best when the soil is moist and the weeds are young. Large numbers of weeds are a symptom of underlying problems such as compacted soil, low soil fertility, the wrong grass for your growing conditions, or poor mowing practices. Improve your soil with compost and slow-release fertilizers, mow to 2 1/2 inches, and plant grass seed designed to thrive in the Pacific Northwest and your lawn will out-compete weeds!



Prevent Poisonings

It happens every year – a toddler eats a whole jar of chewable vitamins, or takes a swig of drain opener left under the sink in an old apple juice jar. Someone quickly grabs the phone and calls the Washington Poison Center Hotline, at 1-800-222-1222, and gets advice on the best next steps.



This happened more than 4,000 times in Thurston County in 2006. Most calls involve children six and younger, predominantly one and two year olds. Many of these accidents could have been easily prevented by keeping poisons and medicines safely stored in locked or secured areas.

How can you prevent accidental poisoning in your home? "The most important thing people can do is read the label," says Katie Von Derau of the Washington Poison Center, quickly adding "...and follow the directions! So many emergencies would be prevented this way."

Another way to quickly alert both kids and adults is to put the scowling green face of a Mr. Yuk sticker on poisons. Teach children that this means "no – don't touch, taste, or smell this!" If you need just a few stickers, call the Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222. For larger quantities see www.wapc.org under "Order Materials."

Periodically, do a household hunt to make sure chemical products are stored up high, with Mr. Yuk stickers on them. The most common poisonings involve cleaning products, antifreeze, furniture polish, lighter fluid and other fuels, pesticides, and paint thinner. Among cleaners, the most dangerous are drain opener, toilet bowl cleaner, oven cleaner, and rust remover. Medicines, pain medications, and personal care products – from toothpaste and soap to lotions and cosmetics – are common causes of poisoning, too.

If your hunt turns up chemicals you'll never use again, take them to HazoHouse for free disposal. See "Resources" on page 7.

Garbage and Recycling Resources

Contacts



Ruth Pierce, Department of Water and Waste Management

Thurston County Department of Water and Waste Management

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

Alternatives to Burning Hotline:
754-2953 (24-hour recorded message)

TDD: 754-2933

Thurston County Solid Waste Administration:
357-2491
Located at 929 Lakeridge Drive S.W.,
Bldg. 4, Room 100, Olympia, 98502

Curbside Collection (Haulers)

Thurston County does not own or operate garbage 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 736-5282
..... or 1-800-525-4167
- Pacific Disposal 923-0111
- Rural Refuse 923-0111

The above companies are owned by Harold LeMay Enterprises. Trash and recycling services are offered in all their service areas (except in the city of Bucoda where curbside recycling is not provided). Yard waste collection service is also available in many of the service areas. Call for more information.

- City of Olympia residents, call 753-8368. Olympia provides its own trash, recycling and yard waste collection service.
- City of Rainier residents, call 446-2265. Rainier provides its own trash service but does not offer recycling or yard waste collection service. However, Rainier residents may call 923-0111 for recycle-only service.

Web Sites

Thurston County Department of Water and Waste Management: www.co.thurston.wa.us/wwm

Thurston County Environmental Health:
www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehadm

City of Olympia: www.olympiawa.gov. Click the following links: City Utilities, Garbage and Recycling, At Home, and then Recycling Information.

LeMay Enterprises: www.lemayinc.com

Department of Ecology Recycle Assistance:
1800recycle.wa.gov

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

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 recycle blue boxes

Thurston County's drop-off recycling boxes accept:

- Newspaper
- Glass bottles and jars
- Tin and aluminum cans
- Mixed paper
- Plastic bottles, #1 - #7 and dairy tubs
- Milk cartons and drink boxes
- Corrugated cardboard

All materials should be placed loose in the boxes. There is no need to put materials in paper or plastic bags; in fact, these contaminate the load of recyclables.



Materials Exchange Web Sites

The following Web sites provide an excellent way to sell or give away items in good condition that you no longer need or want.

- Thurston County's reuse program: www.2good2toss.com
- Olympia's Free Online Classified Ads: groups.yahoo.com/group/olympiaclassifieds
- Craig's List: seattle.craigslist.org/oly
- FreeCycle: www.freecycle.org

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 12/31/07)

one ton = 2,000 lbs

Loose Garbage \$72.46 per ton
plus tollhouse fee \$3.28 per trip
plus WA state garbage tax at 3.6%
Minimum fee: \$10.88 for 200 lbs or less.

Garbage in Cans/Bags

1 can/bag \$5.10
2 cans/bags \$6.79
3 cans/bags \$8.49
4 cans/bags \$10.17
More than 4 cans/bags are weighed as loose garbage.

Loose Yard Debris \$35 per ton
Minimum fee: \$5 for 300 lbs or less.

Yard Debris in Cans/Bags .. \$1.25 each
More than 4 cans/bags are weighed as loose yard debris.

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 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

APRIL/MAY: Free 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 (see page 7 for details). Workshops will be held on the following Saturdays:

- April 21:** Closed Loop Park
- May 19:** Dirt Works ¹
- June 2:** Closed Loop Park
- June 9:** Olympia Farmers Market
- July 14:** Dirt Works ²
- Aug. 18:** Dirt Works ³
- Sept. 22:** Olympia Farmers Market
- Oct. 20:** Dirt Works ⁴

Schedule

The Closed Loop Park and Olympia Farmers Market workshop times are:

- Green Cone composting for food waste 10:30 a.m. to 10:50 a.m.
- Yard waste composting 11 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.
- Worm bin composting for food waste noon to 12:45 p.m.

1. The May 19 workshop has the above schedule, plus afternoon classes: Green Cone at 1 p.m.; yard waste at 1:30 p.m.; and worm bins at 2:30 p.m. This event also includes an open house and plant sale.

2. The topic of the July 14 workshop is "Hands-on Worm Composting" for food waste from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

3. The Aug. 18 workshop focuses on "Yard Waste Composting Featuring Bins You Can Build or Buy" from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

4. The Oct. 20 workshop covers "Leaf Composting Basics" from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Locations

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

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

Closed Loop Park is located at the Thurston County Waste and Recovery Center, 2418 Hogum Bay Road N.E. near Lacey.

JULY: Garden Tour

The 2007 Garden Rhapsodies Tour will be held **Saturday, July 28** from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets are available in July at local nurseries and by contacting Jennifer Johnson at 754-3355 ext. 7631 or johnsoj@co.thurston.wa.us.

MAY: Community Recycle Days

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

Saturday, May 12 – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
South Sound Speedway
3720 183rd Ave. S.W. in Tenino

Saturday, May 19 – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Thurston County Fairgrounds,
Event will be in the lower parking lot
3054 Carpenter Road S.E. near Lacey

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 with you to the events.

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

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 vehicle) - no rim	\$2		\$
Tires (passenger vehicle) - 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, Dishwashers (no plastic-cased models)	\$5		\$
Microwaves, Televisions, Computer Monitors, Laptop Computers	\$10		\$
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 gallon or larger, clean and unbroken)	FREE		FREE
		GRAND TOTAL:	\$

MAY: Septic Sense Workshops

Learn tips to prolong the life of your septic system. To register, call Thurston County Environmental Health at 754-4111 or e-mail johnsoj@co.thurston.wa.us. TDD: 754-2933. The workshops are free.

Thursday, May 3 – 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Griffin Fire Station
3707 Steamboat Loop N.W., Olympia

Thursday, May 10 – 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Grace Community Covenant Church
5501 Wiggins Road S.E., Olympia

Tuesday, May 15 – 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Lacey Fire Station 34
8407 Steilacoom Road N.E., Lacey

Tuesday, May 22 – 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Thurston County Public Health and Social Services, 412 Lilly Road N.E., Olympia

JUNE: WasteMobile in Rainier, Rochester

Dispose of hazardous household products at the next WasteMobile events:

Saturday, June 2 – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Rochester Middle School
9937 Highway 12 S.W. in Rochester

Sunday, June 3 – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Rainier High School
308 2nd Street in Rainier

We WILL accept: oil-based and latex paint, glues, pesticides, thinners and solvents, all batteries, antifreeze, motor oil and filters, cleaners, pool and hobby chemicals, fluorescent lights, mercury thermometers, adhesives, polishes, and other home-generated hazardous wastes. These items are accepted at no charge.

We WILL NOT accept: garbage, yard waste, household appliances, electronics, computers, monitors, medical wastes, explosives, ammunition, propane tanks, empty or leaking containers, business wastes, smoke detectors or radioactive materials.

