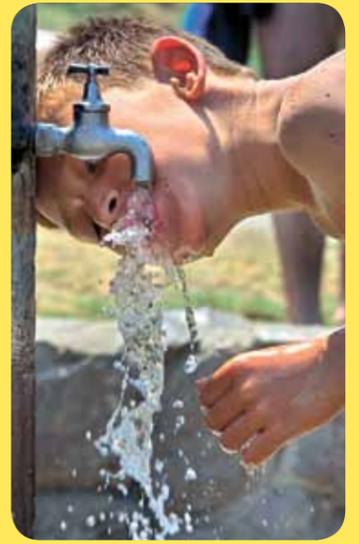


Talkin' Trash & more



Tips for Keeping Thurston County Healthy

www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org

REDUCE  REUSE  RECYCLE

Fall/Winter 2011

Some Items No Longer Allowed in Organics Bins

Milk and Juice Cartons, Frozen Food Boxes, and Ice Cream Containers Move to "No" List



Leftover polycoating (right) contaminates the finished compost product.

A few years have passed since Thurston County residents and businesses started adding food waste and compostable paper to yard waste bins. And what a difference it has made! In 2005, 13,079 tons of organics were recycled; by 2010, the number more than doubled to 33,085 tons. Our thanks go to all of you who have participated in the program and worked hard to make sure only compostable items go in the bins.

But, like so many things in life, just when you've got everything figured out, things change. Silver Springs Organics, the facility that takes organics collected in Thurston County, is operating under a modified permit. As a result, the list of acceptable items has changed a bit.

First, paper products that have a thin plastic lining, called "polycoating," can no longer go in the organics bin. Polycoated items have a slick or shiny surface that does not break down in the commercial composting process. Items that are no longer accepted include:

- Milk and juice cartons – put in recycling
- Frozen food boxes – put in recycling. If the boxes are contaminated with food, put them in the garbage.
- Ice cream containers – put in garbage

Residents also need to check other paper items, such as paper cups and restaurant take-out boxes, to make sure they do not have a slick or shiny surface before placing them in the organics bin. If they are coated, they go in the trash. Remember: When in doubt, throw it out.

Secondly, we are asking people to please check the Silver Springs Organics website for a list of compostable bags and service ware (such as cups, plates and utensils) accepted in the organics bin. Unfortunately, not all brands marketed as "compostable" break down in the time and temperature used at a commercial composting facility. The Silver Springs website lists products that have been specifically tested by the facility. Hopefully, more manufacturers will submit products for testing so the list can expand soon. If you can't find items on the list, encourage stores in your neighborhood to carry them.

We know these changes may cause some confusion. Just remember to examine paper products closely. If they have a slick, shiny surface, they most likely have a plastic coating and should not go in the organics bin.

Visit www.silverspringsorganics.com for a full list of accepted items or call your hauler (listed on the back page) with any questions.

Recyclables Might Change Too

Although milk cartons, juice cartons, and frozen food boxes can go in the recycle bin for now, the rules for recycling might eventually change too.

Like composting facilities, recycling facilities are having problems with polycoating. But in their case, the issue has mostly to do with finding markets – or places that will buy – the containers.

A regional stakeholders group formed by the Department of Ecology found that many recycling facilities accept polycoated containers, but treat them as trash or "out-throws."

Some facilities have a separate market for them, but the facility that takes our recyclables does not at this time. As a result, these items have no value. They just end up in the trash at the recycling facility and become an added expense for recycling programs.

We're in a bit of a wait-and-see mode to find out whether our facility can locate a market for these materials. For now, you can continue to put milk cartons, juice boxes, and frozen food boxes in your recycle bin. We'll keep you posted once a decision is made regionally.

✗ No! These Items Do Not Belong In the Organics Bin



Milk and juice cartons, ice cream containers, and frozen food boxes are no longer accepted in the organics bin.

✓ Yes! Use These Bags

Silver Springs Organics currently accepts only two brands of compostable bags:

- EcoSafe Compostable Bags
- Heritage BioTuf Bags

Bayview Thriftway and Ralph's Thriftway in Olympia both sell EcoSafe bags. Bayview Thriftway is located at 516 4th Ave. Ralph's Thriftway is located at 1908 E. 4th Ave.

BioTuf bags are sold online in 30-gallon sizes and larger. They are available on websites such as www.heritage-bag.com.

Other brands of bags are not currently accepted in organics bins.

Please encourage your local grocery store to start carrying approved bags. If you find another store in Thurston County that sells approved bags, email us at ThurstonSolidWaste@co.thurston.wa.us.

Trash Flash

Organics Bin Still Useful in the Winter: It may be tempting to return your organics bin in the winter when lawn mowing season ends, but here are a few reasons to think twice: In the winter, you can recycle pumpkins and fall leaves, recycle Christmas trees, and continue to keep food and food-soiled paper out of the garbage (especially during the holidays). Keeping the bin also means you won't have to pay a re-delivery charge in the spring. This winter, consider keeping your bin and reap the benefits all year long.

Since You Asked!



Where can I take old, black landscaping rock from our yard?

Concrete Recyclers at 2935 Black Lake Blvd. in Tumwater will take recycle them. Concrete Recyclers charges \$4.50 per ton with a \$20 minimum charge.

The Thurston County Waste and Recovery Center at Hawks Prairie will also accept the rocks, but the rocks will be mixed with garbage, not recycled. The rate is \$17 for loads weighing 300 pounds or less. See the back page for a complete list of rates at the Waste and Recovery Center. Also consider posting the rocks on www.2good2toss.com. They'll probably be scooped up!

Can studded tires be recycled like regular tires?

Yes, studded tires can be recycled at the Thurston County Waste and Recovery Center. The cost is \$17 for loads weighing 300 pounds or less. There is a limit of five tires per customer per day.

Many tire dealers will accept studded tires and other types of tires for a small fee. Visit www.WhereDoITakeMy.org and click on "tires."

Art at the Food Bank

Thurston County Food Bank clients have been donating glass marbles, shells, buttons, and other colorful trinkets for use in mosaics that border the food bank's two main entrances in downtown Olympia. Fran Potasnik, a retired elementary school and art teacher, has been building the mosaics. Potasnik takes a heavy-handed approach to reuse: she places larger pieces in a frying pan and breaks them with a hammer. Courtesy of The Olympian, Aug. 13, 2011.



Fran Potasnik works on one of two public entrances at the food bank on Sunday, Aug 7. Reprinted with permission of The Olympian. STEVE BLOOM/staff photographer.

Glass Aggregate Summit, November 3

Learn How Glass Aggregate Has a Second Life in Construction

The Northwest EcoBuilding Guild of Olympia and Thurston County Solid Waste are teaming up to host a Glass Aggregate Summit on November 3 for people who work in construction, such as planners, builders and engineers.



Glass aggregate, also called "cullet," is glass that is ground into a fine sand/gravel. It is not sharp and is a perfect substitute for pea gravel or sand in many types of construction projects. Common uses include base for roadways, fill underneath slabs, bedding for pipes, and drainage. Glass aggregate has been used in many local large and small building projects.

The Washington Department of Transportation approves the use of glass aggregate for several applications. This makes sense because it provides the same function as sand and gravel

and often has advantages over these materials in our rainy climate.

Glass aggregate is available locally at Concrete Recyclers in Tumwater, and it is often much less expensive than similar materials. Here in Thurston County and neighboring counties, glass that is placed in recycle bins is not actually recycled into new bottles or jars; it is turned into aggregate instead.

If glass aggregate is so great, why isn't everyone using it? Often times, permittees, contractors, and engineers are not aware of the benefits or hesitate to use something that is unfamiliar.

The Glass Aggregate Summit will feature speakers from all aspects of the construction industry who are experts on the specifications and are using the products successfully. For more information about the summit, contact Brian Stafki at 709-3053 or stafkib@co.thurston.wa.us.

Trash Flash

Recycled Glass Used In Highway Project: Glass aggregate is being used under and around pipes that will eventually carry stormwater from road surfaces at the interchange of I-5 at N.E. 134th in Clark County. As of May 2011, more than 1,200 tons of recycled glass had been used in this joint project between Clark County and the Washington State Department of Transportation.

Sustainable Building at "The Commons"



Welcoming gate at The Commons

The South Sound Chapter of the Northwest EcoBuilding Guild is celebrating the opening of "The Commons," a new sustainable demonstration site in downtown Olympia at 911 Adams St. S.E. The Guild collaborated with Fertile Ground Community Center to create a new space for urban agriculture, green remodeling, and community building.

The Commons features a welcoming gate built in partnership with Thurston County Solid Waste and Concrete Recyclers. It includes a 200-square-foot patio, a fence, and benches

made entirely of recycled and sustainable materials. The welcoming gate is located in the hedge at the corner of 9th Avenue and Adams Street.

The patio was constructed of recycled concrete and glass, using crushed concrete and glass aggregate for the base, and broken chunks of concrete (called "urbanite") arranged in a sunburst pattern. The fence and benches were made of cedar lumber from a local family forest in Mossyrock certified by the Forest Stewardship Council.

The Commons also features a "chicken tractor lounge" created from antique tractor parts. The lounge is a whimsical sitting and play area where families can see urban agriculture in action and feed chickens with food from a bright red gumball machine. Just 25 cents a handful!

These projects were made possible with private donations and generous support from the Olympia Neighborhood Matching Grant.

The Commons welcomes visitors during the day and volunteers by appointment. Call the Northwest EcoBuilding Guild at 754-6152, or stop by!

Trash Flash

Percival Landing: In August, the City of Olympia finished the first phase of the Percival Landing reconstruction project. The project includes a LEED-certified harbor house that has solar water heaters and skylights to reduce energy use, and low-flow water fixtures. Landscaping is irrigated with reclaimed (recycled) water. Planks from the old boardwalk were flipped over and reused over land.

Business Spotlight: Panorama City



Green Team member Shirley Gardebring (center) helps residents recycle at a July 4th barbecue.

Panorama City, a retirement community in Lacey, is seeing green thanks to a group of dedicated residents. These eco-conscious neighbors are working hard to help the community of 1,500 become more sustainable.

For example, in 2007, residents convinced Panorama management to open a central recycling drop-off point after they learned that larger, upgraded recycling trucks could no longer navigate Panorama's narrow streets. Today, volunteers continue to staff the recycling area and educate fellow residents on which materials can be recycled.

A volunteer "recycle buddy" will also pick up recyclables if a resident is physically unable to take materials to the recycle area.

This past September, five enthusiastic residents created "The Green Team" to explore issues of environmental concern. The group has since grown to 40 members. Members are divided into subgroups that research issues such as energy efficiency, waste reduction, and water use. The team then makes recommendations to management and educates residents about the importance of conserving resources.

Earlier this year, The Green Team convinced Panorama's management to add organics collection to the recycle area. They held a waste symposium in March to inform residents about the importance of waste reduction and recycling. Team members also staffed waste stations at Panorama's 4th of July barbecue, where they collected 12 bags of compostable food scraps and food-soiled paper, and only one bag of trash.

What's next on The Green Team's agenda? Team members are currently working with management to collect organics in the Chambers House Restaurant, which prepares dine-in and delivery service for residents. Additionally, the team will hold an energy symposium for residents November 2 to help them improve energy efficiency at home. For more information on the symposium or The Green Team, contact Sally Vogel at sallyvogel@comcast.net.

Our thanks go to Panorama City residents for leading by example! For help with your community's waste-reduction needs, call Thurston County Solid Waste at 867-2491.

Trash Flash

Eyeglasses: The Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center collects used eyeglasses at more than a dozen locations throughout Thurston County and distributes them to people in developing nations. A list of locations is available at www.lionsnwlerc.org/images/dropbox-location.pdf.

Multifamily Recycling is a Snap!

It's easy to recycle at apartments, condominiums, duplexes, and mobile home parks. Recycling is often just few steps out the door to the on-site recycle containers. Most recyclables are comingled—no sorting! One exception is glass, which goes in a separate container.*

Recycling helps the environment and may also reduce trash-disposal costs for the complex. Most complexes have recycle bins located next to each garbage dumpster. Take a minute to find out where the garbage and recycle bins are located at your complex.

If you are unsure which items go in the recycle bins, visit www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org or call your hauler. (Phone numbers are listed on the back page.) The general rule is, "When in doubt, throw it out!"

If your housing complex would like help starting or maintaining a recycling area, email Loni Hanka at hankal@co.thurston.wa.us.

Quick Tips:

- Be sure items are recyclable before placing them in the bins.
- Recyclables must be free of food waste and other contaminants.
- It's not necessary to remove staples, envelope windows, labels, or sticky notes.
- If the bins are full, DO NOT leave materials on the ground. Inform the site manager when the bins are full so the bins can be emptied.

*Glass is comingled with the other recyclables in complexes that have recycling service from the City of Olympia.

Trash Flash

Portland Bans Plastic Bags: The Portland City Council unanimously approved an ordinance in July that prohibits plastic shopping bags at check stands of major grocers and certain big-box stores. The new rules take effect October 15, 2011. Text courtesy of The Oregonian, July 22, 2011.

Talkin' Trash Makeover!

Talkin' Trash has a brand new look! We've freshened up the design to make it more engaging and easier to read. The new design is part of a broader effort to make our public-outreach materials easy to identify. The Solid Waste Program offers a wide array of services, yet they all share a common goal: to help people reduce, reuse, and recycle. Now our various publications will begin to reflect that common mission as well.

Secondhand Safari Set For October 1

Seasoned bargain hunters have marked their calendars for Secondhand Safari on Saturday, October 1. This semiannual community garage sale features more than 100 garage sale booths, food, entertainment, a free paperback book exchange, and more. It's the perfect place to find a new treasure, or sell the unused items cluttering your attic or garage.

Admission is just \$2 for early birds arriving between 8 a.m. and 9 a.m. Admission is \$1 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sellers can choose between an outdoor booth for \$25, or a covered booth for \$40. Call the Fairgrounds at 786-5453 to reserve your space.



Let Us Help You Recycle at Work

If your workplace needs help with recycling or waste reduction, give us a call! We can give recycling presentations to staff, provide posters and stickers for recycle bins, and help your staff perform a waste sort. We can also help your purchasing staff choose environmentally preferred products. Call us at 867-2491 for assistance.

We also offer resources on www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org. Click the "Business Waste Reduction" link to find:

- Waste reduction ideas.
- How-to guides for building a green team or performing your own waste sort.
- Posters and other employee communication tools.
- Industry-specific tip sheets.
- A list of businesses that collect organics. Look for your favorite business!

E-Reader Recycling



Washington State's popular E-Cycle program now accepts e-readers such as the Kindle and the Nook.

Under the E-Cycle program, manufacturers provide free recycling for five types of electronics: TVs, computers, laptops, monitors – and now, e-readers.

Here in Thurston County, residents can drop off E-Cycle items at Goodwill locations and Midway Recovery in Tumwater. Site details are available by clicking the "Electronics" link of www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org.

Events Go Zero Waste

Recycling at events such as weddings, soccer games, and meetings has become quite popular; however, it's hard to recycle when the facility itself doesn't have recycle bins. To make it easier, Thurston County Solid Waste loans out free organics and recycle bins to residents, businesses, and community groups. In the past six months, we've loaned out 112 bins. The residents who borrowed them kept more than 775 pounds of material out of the landfill. For details, visit our website at www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org and click on the "Borrow Event Recycling Bins" link on the left navigation bar.



A Waste-Less Fair

Munching on scones, fritters, and burgers is part of fun at the Thurston County Fair. But all the leftover food and food-soiled paper can create a mountain of garbage. Fortunately, volunteers with the Thurston County Master Recycler Composter Program helped fair-goers separate their recyclables and compostables before putting materials in the garbage.

The 5-day fair in August drew more than 30,000 people. Our thanks to the volunteers who lent a hand, and to all of you who spent a few minutes at the sort line to make a big difference.

Products that Close the Loop

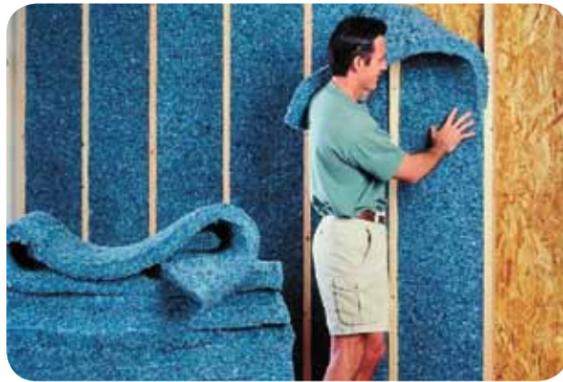


Photo courtesy jsbarrie/Flickr

In every edition of Talkin' Trash, we highlight recycled-content products that help "close the loop." If you know of a recycled-content or "upcycled" product, please email us at ThurstonSolidWaste@co.thurston.wa.us.

Insulation That's Blue and Green

What's blue and green all over? If you guessed insulation made from blue jeans, you'd be right! Fall is fast approaching and it's time to think about managing your household heating costs. Proper insulation is key to energy efficiency. Modern, traditional insulation is made from fiberglass which contains formaldehyde, a toxic element. Happily, there are now environmentally friendly alternatives that are made from recycled blue jeans. The denim you wear today could someday have a second life as insulation to keep your family warm.

One Arizona-based company, Bonded Logic, Inc., specializes in producing sustainable insulation. Its "Ultratouch Denim Insulation" is made from 80 percent post-consumer recycled natural fibers. It's also VOC (volatile organic compound)-free and 100 percent recyclable.

Denim insulation is becoming more popular and is readily available. The next time you visit a home improvement store, look for blue AND green products and consider using them in your home.

Mattress Recycling

Correctional Industries launched a mattress recycling program about a year ago and one of its sites is located in Tumwater. Tom Williamson, brand manager with Correctional Industries, reports the program is doing well and has diverted approximately 52,000 mattresses from regional landfills, saving about 1.2 million cubic feet of landfill space.

Mattresses are collected from retailers and delivered by truck to a Correctional Industries recycling center located at either the Monroe Correctional Complex, or the Tumwater Recycle Center. Mattresses are not accepted directly from the public.

Offender workers separate and sort the mattress materials, which include steel, wood, cotton, and polyurethane foam. Each material is baled and picked up by St. Vincent de Paul and delivered to material recyclers throughout the area.

The mattress program provides 33 jobs for offenders, helping them learn transferable skills such as operating a baler, driving a forklift, and other basic warehouse functions.



Trash Flash

Mattresses and Landfills: Mattresses are hard on landfills for many reasons. A typical mattress is 23 cubic feet. The sheer size of a mattress makes it space-consuming, and mattresses tend to damage landfill equipment. GreenLivingTips.com reports that between 20 and 40 million mattresses are disposed of each year in the United States.

Carpet Recycling Is Taking Off

Nearly 6 billion pounds of carpet are discarded each year in the United States. In 2009, only 5 percent of carpet in the waste stream was diverted from landfills. A company called Carpet Collectors is trying to increase that number by working with local carpet stores and installers to recycle the carpet that is removed when new flooring is installed.

For carpet installers, the service is cheaper than trash, and requires none of the bin-rental fees or delivery charges that are customary with trash collection. Carpet installers can promote the fact that they are recycling what is usually sent to the landfill.



The service is new to this area. Participating installers so far are:

- B&R Flooring America in Lacey.
- Abbey Capitol Floors & Interiors in Olympia.
- Meyer Floor Covering in Tacoma.
- Floor FX in Puyallup.

Residents may NOT drop off carpet at the above locations. Thurston County Solid Waste is exploring local drop-off options for residents. Carpet and padding can currently be taken to Recovery 1 in Tacoma, located at 1630 East 18th St. For rates, call (800) 949-5852.

For general information, visit the Carpet Collectors website, www.carpetcollectors.com. For information on setting up this service, contact barrett.burbidge@gmail.com at 280-7197 or eddiele@wcnx.org at 280-7305.

Source of diversion statistic: Carpet Collectors.

Master Recycler Composter Training

Do you want to learn how to reduce waste, conserve natural resources, motivate others to change their habits, and make a difference in your community? If so, join the Thurston County Master Recycler Composter Program!

Thurston County and WSU Extension offer courses each year that provide comprehensive training in solid waste prevention, reuse, recycling, and composting. In return for 19 hours of training, participants agree to spend 25 hours during the following year on volunteer outreach in the community.



Master Recycler Composters volunteer at the fair.

Master Recycler Composters can participate in a wide range of county waste reduction activities and community events. They can also work in their own neighborhoods, schools, or workplaces on projects encouraging waste reduction, recycling, and composting.

The fall course will be held on Wednesdays, October 5 through November 2 from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The classes will be held in Olympia at the WSU Extension office, 5033 Harrison Ave. N.W.

The group will also meet from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturdays, October 15 and 22, for field trips to a local recycling facility, compost demonstration garden, and the Thurston County Waste and Recovery Center. To become a Master Recycler Composter, participants must attend all seven sessions.

Class size is limited to 20. Applications will be accepted until September 23. To apply online and learn about registration fees, visit <http://county.wsu.edu/thurston>. For more information, call Cori Carlton at 867-2162 or email carltoc@co.thurston.wa.us.

Trash Flash

Best Buy Recycling Kiosk: Best Buy has a recycling kiosk near the front door that accepts plastic bags; CDs, DVDs and their cases; rechargeable batteries; ink and toner cartridges; electronic wires, cords and cables; and remote controllers. Best Buy is located at 625 Black Lake Blvd. in Olympia. Phone: 596-9702.

Schools Take a Bite Out of Lunch Waste



On average, more than half of what most schools throw away is food, but several local schools are now composting their food waste instead. These

schools are sending a lot less stuff to the landfill, conserving resources, saving money, and providing students the opportunity to learn to be more responsible environmental stewards.

School Composting by the Numbers

- 28 – Number of schools with food waste composting programs in Thurston County
- 250,000 – Estimated pounds of organics collected from all schools with food waste composting programs in Thurston County
- 14,500 – Total number of students participating in school food waste composting programs in Thurston County
- 85% – Average percent of lunchroom waste collected from schools with food waste composting programs in Thurston County
- \$3,500 – Estimated annual savings in total garbage and recycling collection costs for the Tenino School District after launching a food waste composting program.

Many schools across Thurston County plan to launch food waste composting programs this school year. For more information about the county's Food to Flowers program, call Peter Guttchen at 709-3013 or email guttchp@co.thurston.wa.us.

For information about composting programs at schools within the City of Olympia, contact Spencer Orman at 753-8752, sorman@ci.olympia.wa.us or Bonnie Meyer with the Olympia School District at 596-8566, bmeyer@osd.wednet.ed.

Data is for the 2010-2011 school year.



Trash Flash

Trash Talk for Kids: Fourth and 5th grade students in Thurston County will soon start getting their own "Trash Talk" publication delivered to the classroom. It will feature information on recycling, reuse, household hazardous waste, yard waste, waste reduction, and more. The newsletter will be informative while offering activities like word searches, crossword puzzles, and other games to make learning more fun!

Buckets, Pots OK

Here's good news: Clean plant pots and buckets may now go in your curbside recycle bin – including kitty litter buckets, detergent buckets, and regular cleaning buckets. The plant pots must have rigid sides (not soft, crinkly sides) and be free of dirt. Buckets must also be clean; the lids can be recycled.

This change is available to residents who get curbside recycling service from Pacific Disposal or any other hauling company owned by LeMay Enterprises.



Watch Us on YouTube

Tweets and FaceBook updates are not the only ways to stay connected with the Thurston County Solid Waste community. Thurston County Solid Waste videos are now available on our YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/user/ThurstonSolidWaste. Watch our first video, "Green Team to the Extreme!" This video features a waste sort audit with Lydia Hawk Elementary School students and staff from the Food to Flowers program. Please "like" us and suggest our page to your friends and neighbors.

Solid Waste news is also available via Twitter at www.twitter.com/SolidWasteThuCo. You can also follow us at www.facebook.com/ThurstonSolidWaste. Will you be our 400th follower?

Presentations, Field Trips for Schools

Teachers, let us give you a hand by giving a presentation to your classroom or organizing a field trip. Thurston County Solid Waste offers free, fun presentations for K-6 classrooms about recycling, worms and worm bins, waste reduction, and household hazardous products. A description of each presentation can be found in the environmental education brochure on www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org.

We also can schedule field trips for fourth to 12th grade classrooms to visit the Waste and Recovery Center at Hawks Prairie to get a first-hand view of how much trash we create and how it gets handled. Students visit HazoHouse (Thurston County's household hazardous waste facility), the recycle center, the methane flare station, and the leachate pond.

For more information on presentations or tours, email Colleen Minion at minionc@co.thurston.wa.us or call 786-5269.

Latex Paint Not Accepted at HazoHouse

Thurston County's HazoHouse is no longer accepting latex paint from residents. Latex (also known as acrylic) paint is now considered safe to put in the trash. Follow these tips to dry unwanted paint:

- If the can is 1/4 full or less, remove the lid and place the can in a safe, well-ventilated area. The latex paint will dry in a few days and then you can place the container in the trash after checking the paint's thickness with a stick.
- If the can is more than 1/4 full, use mulch, kitty litter, sand, or shredded paper to solidify the paint. Paint solidifier is also available at many hardware and paint stores. Once the paint has a tacky, oatmeal-like consistency and will not spill out, place it in the trash.

Remove the lid from the can so your hauler can see that the can is empty or the contents are solidified.

Let's Meet!

Thurston County Solid Waste educators would enjoy meeting your group and giving a fun, engaging presentation on waste reduction. Customized and interactive sessions are free and available for businesses, service clubs, homeowner associations, scouts, youth groups, and others of all ages.

Would you like to know more about how to improve your recycling habits? Maybe you want to set up a worm bin? Or learn how to make SMART (Save Money and Reduce Trash) purchases? Just give us a call!

- Youth presentations – Colleen Minion at 786-5269
- Adult presentations – Loni Hanka at 754-4398
- Businesses, nonprofits, and government organizations – Emily Orme at 867-2086

Olympia News

If you have curbside collection service from the City of Olympia, visit olympiawa.gov/wastewise for advice on how to recycle at home, at work, and at play.

- At home: Recycle and compost better than ever at your home. Go online for new and improved lists of what to recycle and compost at the curb. You can also view and print a collection schedule if you misplaced yours.
- At work: Start composting at your workplace. Contact Spencer Orman, 753-8752 or sorman@ci.olympia.wa.us for information and incentives.
- At play: Remember to bring your reusable bottles and bags wherever you go. Keeping up those sustainable habits while out and about saves natural resources, money and landfill space.

Dumpster Diving at Lydia Hawk

In June, Thurston County Solid Waste staff helped the Green Team at Lydia Hawk Elementary in Lacey sort through one day's worth of trash. The team hoped to find out how much stuff the school is throwing away that could be reduced, reused, recycled, or composted.

The team sorted through 326 pounds of stuff that had been thrown away (including a lot of yucky mashed potatoes and gravy) and discovered that almost 75 percent of it could have been composted or recycled! The school will be using this data to help improve its current recycling programs and to launch a composting program for food waste in the 2011-12 school year.

To see the Lydia Hawk dumpster divers in action, catch their YouTube video at www.youtube.com/watch?v=gprVQzMVJj8.



Lydia Hawk Elementary School students sort through garbage.

Trash Flash

National Strategy for Electronics: In July, representatives of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and other federal agencies teamed up with executives from Dell, Spring, and Sony Electronics to unveil a new "National Strategy for Electronics Stewardship." The strategy makes a commitment for the federal government to encourage more environmentally friendly design of electronic products, promote recycling of used or discarded electronics, and advance a domestic market for electronics recycling to protect public health and create jobs.

Become a Washington Green School

Now both public and private K-12 schools across Washington can sign up to participate in the Washington



Green Schools program on www.wagreenschools.org. This voluntary program provides online resources and tools that students, teachers, and staff can use to assess and take actions to "green up" school campuses and operations.

Through achievements at five different program levels, schools gain certification status and awards such as a flag and public recognition.

The program emphasizes five environmental categories:

- Energy efficiency.
- Recycling and waste reduction.
- Toxics reduction and indoor air quality.
- Transportation and outdoor air quality.
- Water quality and conservation.

Schools that participate can reap environmental and economic benefits while students receive hands-on environmental education. Students also gain valuable leadership and community service skills.

If your school needs help with recycling and waste reduction, contact Colleen Minion at minionc@co.thurston.wa.us or 786-5269.

Trash Flash

Local Green Schools: These local schools are already participating in the Washington Green Schools Program: Bush Middle School, Hansen Elementary School, Marshall Middle School, Michael T. Simmons Elementary School, New Market Skills Center, Tumwater Middle School, and Washington Middle School.

Medicine Takeback Bill to Return

In January 2012, a bill will go to state legislators that would require manufacturers to fund the collection and disposal of prescription and over-the-counter medications. Currently, cities and counties lack collection programs altogether, or their local law enforcement agencies are trying to fund them from their own limited budgets.

Under Senate Bill 5234, law enforcement and pharmacies would volunteer to be drop-off sites, local governments would educate the public and promote the program, and the manufacturers would fund the disposal. It is estimated the program would cost the pharmaceutical industry about two cents per prescription.

In 2010, Thurston County adopted Resolution 14422 which states, "Thurston County supports establishment of a convenient, safe, secure, and environmentally sound medicine return program for unwanted medicines from households through an internalized pharmaceutical-manufacturer financing mechanism that covers the cost of collection, transportation, and hazardous waste disposal and does not rely on state and local government funding."



To learn more about Senate Bill 5234, and find the temporary drop-off locations near you, please go to www.TakeBackYourMeds.org.

Health Matters

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



Cut it High, Let it Lie

Most of us take care of grass in some way. We either choose to devote time and energy to watering, weeding, and maintaining our lawn, or we choose to do the minimum work necessary. Either way works, depending on what you are trying to achieve – a green “showcase” lawn, trails through planted garden beds, or a playground for pets and family. Whatever importance you place on your lawn, cutting it high and letting it lie is a simple way to provide a steady source of nitrogen. In fact, this simple practice can provide one-quarter to one-half of the nitrogen your lawn needs in a year.



Set lawn mowing heights to about two inches for most grasses. This helps grass grow deeper roots and crowds out weeds. Use a mulching lawn mower to finely chop clippings and blow them below the surface so they aren't visible or tracked indoors. All lawn mowers can be mulch mowers by simply removing the bags but, of course, not all of them will finely chop and blow. Sharp blades will keep the grass healthier. If possible, mow when the grass is dry for best results.

Mulch mowing does not contribute to thatch buildup. Thatch is composed mainly of fibrous stems and roots.

Learn Something New

We offer several fun opportunities for you and your friends, neighbors, work group, club, or school to learn something new about making smart shopping choices with your health and the environment in mind.

We have 50-minute presentations especially crafted for teens, adults, and seniors on topics such as chemicals of concern in personal care products, how to create a healthy home environment, and common-sense gardening techniques for a beautiful, low-maintenance landscape. Learn how to read product labels to choose safer products for you and your family, and how to avoid misleading marketing claims.

There are many healthy, low-cost ways to create a healthier home environment that looks and smells great while keeping your family, pets and community safer! Each presentation includes hands-on activities, resources to take home, and safer product samples to try out. Call (360) 867-2674 for more information, or see our presentations page online at www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehhm/outreach.html#speak.

A Healthy Home Environment

Home sweet home...or home sick home? Average Americans now spend about 90 percent of their time indoors where the air can be five to ten times more polluted than outdoor air, even in areas with poor outdoor air quality. Many common household products emit fumes. In fact, household dust typically contains all kinds of pollutants, including lead and other harmful heavy metals. In winter, we tend to avoid the cold and damp by closing up our homes and staying indoors even more. Here are some simple actions that can help improve the healthfulness of your home.

- Take off shoes inside and leave them at the door. Studies show that the amount of dirt, dust, and associated pollutants tracked in from outdoors can be greatly reduced by routinely leaving shoes at the door.
- Damp-dust regularly. If your home was built before 1978, it may have had lead paint at some time. In that case, start by damp-dusting windowsills and doorjamb – places where moving parts may rub off specks of lead paint.
- Do routine cleaning with baking soda, vinegar, and soap. Save the strong cleaners for when you really need them. Read the labels carefully for safety directions; many cleaners are hazardous and can trigger asthma attacks.



- Skip the air fresheners. They are filled with volatile organic compounds (VOCs) which can cause eye, nose, and throat irritation, headaches, and nausea. VOCs can also damage the liver, kidney, and central nervous system. If there is a bad smell, try a ventilating fan or open a window.

For more tips, call (360) 867-2674 (TDD 360-867-2603) or visit our website: www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehhm/index.html.

Healthy Homes Program

Starting in January, we're offering a program to provide free healthy home assessments and spread the word about indoor air quality. If you are interested in training to be a volunteer or having an assessment done in your home or child care center, give us a call: (360) 867-2674 (TDD 360-867-2603).

Prepare Now for a Disaster

September is National Emergency Preparedness Month, a time when Americans are urged to plan for worst-case scenarios. Chances are, you've already thought about the usual steps in disaster-planning, like stocking up on extra food, water, and batteries. But what about avoiding a toxic mix of household hazardous chemicals? Dangerous household chemicals can spill during an earthquake, flood or fire, causing toxic, combustible fumes.

The best way to prevent these problems is to limit the purchase of hazardous materials in the first place. Products labeled with the words **Caution**, **Warning**, **Danger**, or **Poison** indicate the level of hazard and signal that the product requires extra care in storage, use, and disposal. “Poison” and “Danger” indicate the highest hazard levels, so minimize purchase of products with those signal words.

Keep chemicals out of reach of children or securely locked in a cabinet. Make sure the chemicals are clearly labeled and stored in unbreakable containers, and check products for leaks or corrosion. Hazardous materials should be placed in a second container, such as a plastic bin with a lid, so they won't break or spill if they topple over. Never store chemicals in or near a well house.

If you have old hazardous products that you no longer need, take them to HazoHouse at the Thurston County Waste and Recovery Center, 2418 Hogum Bay Road N.E. in Lacey. HazoHouse is free for residents; businesses pay a small fee. HazoHouse is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday through Tuesday.



Store hazardous materials in a second container to safeguard against spills.

When preparing unwanted products for HazoHouse, place similar items together, upright, in boxes or tubs. Do not stack items, and be sure to place them carefully in your vehicle to avoid tips or shifts during transport.

HazoHouse collects most types of hazardous products, including: auto products, oil-based paints and primers, fluorescent light bulbs, pesticides, batteries (except alkaline), cleaning supplies,

pool and hobby supplies, and mercury-containing thermometers and thermostats. For more information, click the “Hazardous Waste Disposal” link on www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org.

For more information on emergency preparedness, contact Thurston County Public Health and Social Services at (360) 867-2674 or visit www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/admin/preparedness/familydisaster.html.

Garbage and Recycling Resources

The information on this page is correct through 12/31/11

Contacts

Talkin' Trash is produced by Thurston County Public Works.

Phone: 867-2491 or TDD 754-2933

Email: ThurstonSolidWaste@co.thurston.wa.us.

WasteLine: 786-5494
(24-hour recorded information)

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

Webs: www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org
www.WhereDoITakeMy.org



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, which has been purchased by Waste Connections. Organics/yard waste collection service is also available in many of the service areas. Call for more information or visit www.lemayinc.com.

- City of Olympia residents, call 753-8368 or visit www.olympiawa.gov. Olympia provides its own trash, recycling and organics collection service.
- Town of Bucoda residents, call 278-3525 to arrange for curbside trash and recycling service with LeMay Enterprises.

Public Health and Social Services, Environmental Health

Phone: 867-2674 or TDD 867-2603

Solid and Hazardous Waste section: 867-2664

Web: www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehadm

Hazardous waste web:

www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehhw

Integrated Pest Management web:

www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehipm

Gardening guides:

www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehcsg

Healthy home advice:

www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehhm

Address: 412 Lilly Rd NE, Olympia, WA 98506

Reuse Websites

The following websites provide an excellent way to sell or give away useable items. 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
- craigslist: seattle.craigslist.org/oly
- FreeCycle: www.freecycle.org

Facilities

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 12/31/2011)

one ton = 2,000 lbs

Garbage

300 lbs or less. \$17
More than 300 lbs \$110 per ton, prorated
(One ton is 2,000 pounds, so the per-ton garbage rate is 5.5 cents per pound.) For refrigerated appliances, add a \$17 handling fee to the rate above. Rates include 3.6 percent state refuse tax.

Computers, Monitors, Laptops, TVs, E-Readers

Free through the E-Cycle Washington program. Take these items to the Goodwill donation station located near the recycle center.

Yard Debris

300 lbs or less. \$8
More than 300 lbs \$42 per ton, prorated
(One ton is 2,000 pounds, so the per-ton yard waste rate is 2.1 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.

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.

HazoHouse

Take household hazardous products to HazoHouse. Open Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Phone 754-3354. HazoHouse is located next to the recycling area of the Waste and Recovery Center. Service is free for residents; businesses pay a small fee.

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.

Where Do I Take My...?

Thurston County maintains a database of locations where residents can reuse and recycle virtually any item. Visit www.WhereDoITakeMy.org. Are we missing any locations? Call 867-2491 or email ThurstonSolidWaste@co.thurston.wa.us.

Compost Bin Sales

The Thurston County Master Gardener Foundation sells Earth Machine and Biostack compost bins at reduced prices. Green Cone Solar Digesters are also available at a reduced price while supplies last. For details, visit www.compostbinthurstoncounty.com or call 481-4204.

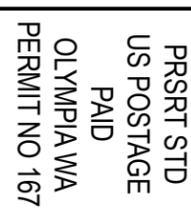


Printed on recycled-content paper



Produced by:
Thurston County Public Works
2404 A Heritage Court S.W.
Olympia, WA 98502-6045

ECRWSS
RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER



Recycle Drop-Off Bins

Recycling Drop-Off Locations:

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

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

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

Items Accepted at the Locations

Thurston County's recycling drop-off locations 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
- Plastic film/bags - without anything in them (Waste and Recovery Center only)

Please place all materials loose in the bin – not in a bag. Bagged materials are difficult to sort out at the recycling sorting facility.