

# Final Soil Replacement in 15 Yards and Rights of Way: Neighborhood east of the Port of Ridgefield waterfront property

## Comments accepted:

January 9<sup>th</sup> 8:00 AM –  
February 10<sup>th</sup> 11:59 PM

## Submit your comment:

### Online (preferred):

Scan the QR code or go to

[go.ecology.wa.gov/comment3020](https://go.ecology.wa.gov/comment3020)



### By mail or email:

Cam Penner-Ash  
Cleanup Site Manager  
WA Department of Ecology  
PO Box 47775  
Olympia, WA 98504-7775  
[cam.penner-ash@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:cam.penner-ash@ecy.wa.gov)

## Read the Documents:

[go.ecology.wa.gov/3020](https://go.ecology.wa.gov/3020)

Click “View documents” on the left sidebar of the webpage OR scroll down to “Documents”.



Ridgefield Public Library  
210 North Main Avenue  
Ridgefield, WA 98642

Ecology Lacey office  
\*by appointment only  
300 Desmond Drive SE  
Lacey, WA 98503

[PublicDisclosureSWRO@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:PublicDisclosureSWRO@ecy.wa.gov)  
360-407-6365

## Site Numbers:

Facility Site ID: 1019  
Site Cleanup ID: 3020

## Port of Ridgefield Consultant:

Maul Foster & Alongi, Inc.  
[ridgefieldyardcleanup@maulfoster.com](https://ridgefieldyardcleanup@maulfoster.com)

The last two phases of yard soil replacement in 15 yards and rights of way are planned to begin in mid-2025. This cleanup will prevent people from being exposed to dioxins. Dioxin contamination is from the Pacific Wood Treating facility, which has already been cleaned up.

Dioxins are hazardous chemicals that don’t break down easily in the environment. Dioxins don’t cause health problems instantly. However, breathing or swallowing dioxins in soil or dust over a long time increases the chance of health problems.

We used several years of sampling results to choose which properties need cleanup. Our plan for cleaning up yards with dioxins in soil is to:

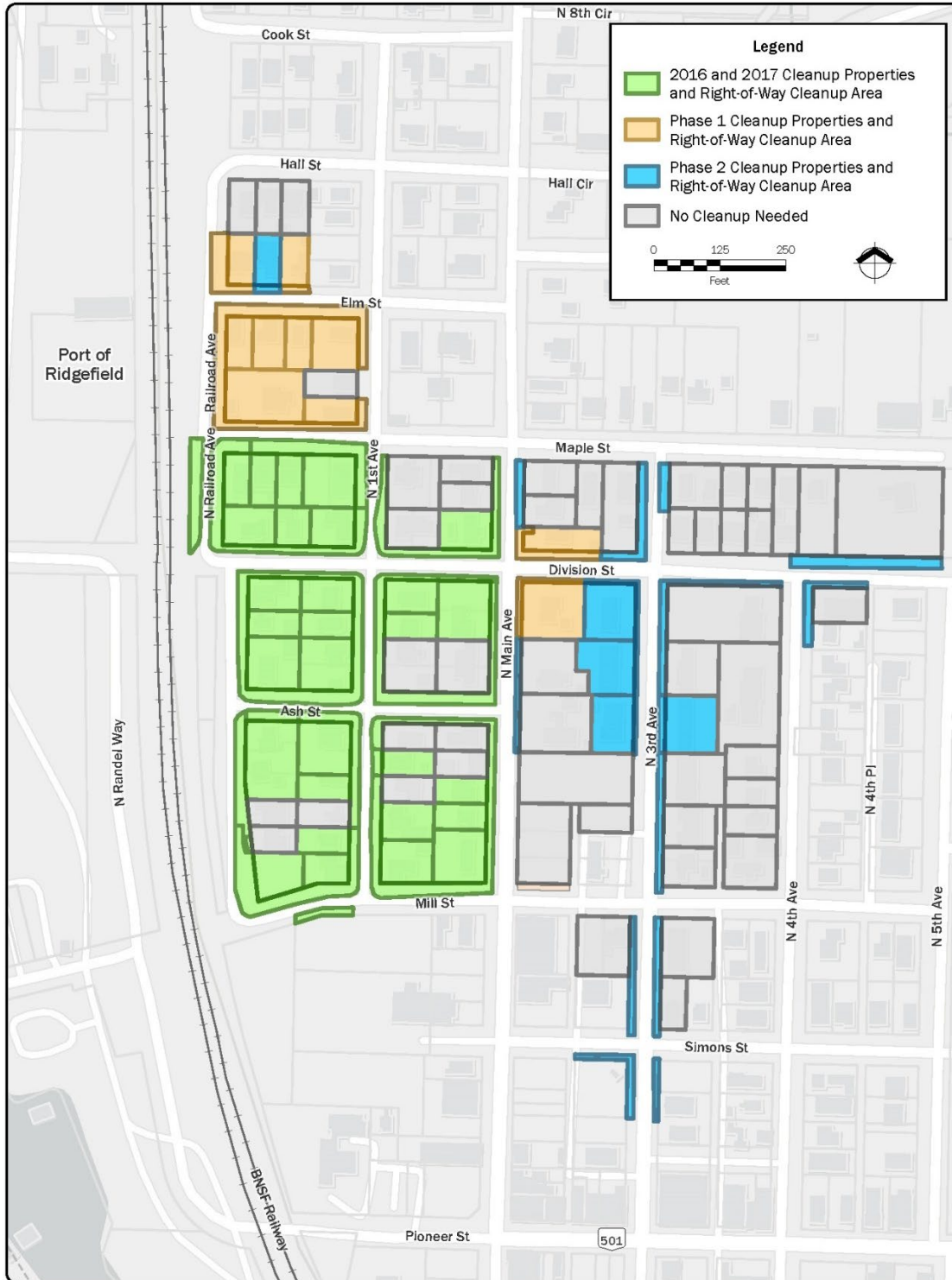
1. Remove about 12-24 inches of soil
2. Add a layer of clean soil and restore landscaping

The Port of Ridgefield’s consultant, Maul Foster & Alongi, Inc. will manage the soil replacement work.

## Documents for Your Review and Comment

This comment period covers planned soil replacement in the neighborhood east of the Port’s waterfront property. This work is not related to proposed waterfront property development.

- **Agreed Order DE 12769**  
A legal agreement requiring the Port and the City of Ridgefield to carry out the Cleanup Action Plan.
- **Draft Off-Property Cleanup Action Plan**  
Ecology’s plan for cleanup and why we chose it.
- **Draft Off-Property Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study**  
Data about contamination in this neighborhood, and a comparison of different cleanup options.
- **State Environmental Policy Act: Determination of Non-Significance**  
The draft Cleanup Action Plan is not likely to harm the environment.



**Figure 1.** The residential neighborhood affected by dioxins-contaminated soil, located east of the Port’s waterfront property.

- **Orange:** 10 properties and rights of way will be cleaned up in Phase 1, planned for mid-2025.
- **Blue:** 5 properties and rights of way will be cleaned up in Phase 2, with new funding.
- **Green:** 29 properties and rights of way have already been cleaned up.
- **Gray:** Areas that do not need to be cleaned up.

## Background

From 1964 to 1993, Pacific Wood Treating (PWT) operated on Port property at 111 West Division Street in Ridgefield. PWT used several hazardous chemicals to preserve wood. PWT's facility closed and declared bankruptcy in 1993. The Port cleaned up contamination at the facility between 1996 and 2015.

Soil in the neighborhood east of the Port's waterfront property was contaminated with dioxins. The dioxins are from pentachlorophenol, a wood preservative used at PWT. Contaminated dust might have blown off the Port property, been tracked onto roads from truck tires, and come off trucks hauling treated wood through Ridgefield city streets. Ecology and the Port began sampling soil in 2009 to find how far contamination spread. 29 yards and rights of ways have already been cleaned up since yard work started in 2016.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Why isn't my yard included in the cleanup plan?

We started looking for dioxins in this neighborhood in 2009. Sampling results showed some yards were not contaminated with dioxins and don't need cleanup. Perhaps these yards were not exposed to dioxins contamination, or the topsoil was reworked after the Pacific Wood Treating facility closed.

To see the sampling results for a specific area in this neighborhood, please look at the Draft Off Property Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study. Find this document at [go.ecology.wa.gov/3020](https://go.ecology.wa.gov/3020) under the "Documents" drop-down menu. Email [cam.penner-ash@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:cam.penner-ash@ecy.wa.gov) with any questions.

### When will this work take place?

We plan to begin yard soil replacement for the ten properties and rights of way in Phase 1 in mid-2025. Pre-construction work for the five properties and rights of way in Phase 2 will begin in early 2025. Phase 2 soil replacement will begin when funding is secured.

### Is this comment period about the nearby proposed waterfront development?

This comment period is not about proposed development. This comment period is **only** about soil replacement in the last fifteen residential yards and rights of way shown in Figure 1. Please direct questions about any proposed waterfront development to the Port.

### What are dioxins?

Dioxins are harmful chemicals that are often a by-product of burning. Sources can be fireplaces, wood stoves, diesel engines, or even forest fires and volcanoes. In this case, dioxins are from the process of using pentachlorophenol, which was used to preserve wood in the past.

For more information about dioxins, visit: [www.epa.gov/dioxin/learn-about-dioxin](https://www.epa.gov/dioxin/learn-about-dioxin).

### What are some healthy habits to avoid breathing or swallowing dioxins in soil?

Dioxins in dust usually stay in the top layer of soil until they are disturbed. Healthy habits can protect you and your family from dioxins. For example, you can:

- Wash your hands after working or playing outside and before eating.
- Remove shoes when you come inside the house.
- Wash food from the garden.
- Vacuum regularly and dust with a damp cloth.
- Wash children's toys often.



Toxics Cleanup Program  
PO Box 47775  
Olympia, WA 98504-7775

## Final Soil Replacement Work in 15 Yards and Rights of Way in the neighborhood east of the Port of Ridgefield waterfront property



More information on the webpage:  
[go.ecology.wa.gov/3020](http://go.ecology.wa.gov/3020)

### Contacts:

Cam Penner-Ash, cleanup site manager  
[cam.penner-ash@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:cam.penner-ash@ecy.wa.gov) or 360-999-9590  
Port of Ridgefield Consultant: Maul Foster & Alongi, Inc.  
[Ridgefieldyardcleanup@maulfoster.com](mailto:Ridgefieldyardcleanup@maulfoster.com)



**¿Habla español?** Nos gustaría hablar con usted del programa de reemplazo de tierra para el barrio que queda al lado de la antigua propiedad de Pacific Wood Treating y cerca de la costa del Puerto de Ridgefield. Para más información en español, llame al 564-250-0563 y solicite un intérprete.

**ADA accessibility.** To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 564-250-0563 or email at [carolyn.subramaniam@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:carolyn.subramaniam@ecy.wa.gov), or visit [ecology.wa.gov/Accessibility](http://ecology.wa.gov/Accessibility). For Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341.