

This list of frequently asked questions explains how yard replacement works and what to expect during the cleanup process.

Q: While I wait for cleanup, what can I do to protect myself and my family?

A: You can still use the areas of your yard that have dioxins, but we recommend reducing contact with soil. To reduce contact with soil we recommend you cover bare soil with mulch, repair bare patches of lawn, and garden in raised beds. See the healthy actions poster included in your packet for additional recommendations.

Q: What is the process for soil removal and replacement?

A: Our cleanup staff will explain cleanup and landscaping options. We will:

1. Meet with you to gather information about your yard and draft a cleanup plan.
2. Meet again to review the plan, make any changes needed, and get final permission from the homeowner.
3. Create construction documents, get necessary permits, and go out to bid for a contractor.
4. Dig up contaminated soils and take them to the landfill.
5. Bring in new soil to backfill the area and restore the landscaping.
6. Give you documentation of the soil removal work completed on your yard.

Q: How will you restore my landscaping?

A: We will restore the yard based on measurements and photographs taken during cleanup plan development and contractor's surveying. The options for landscaping include:

- Restore with the same or in-kind landscaping as before.
- Replace some of the lawn with mulched beds.

Some plants can be removed, transplanted, or replaced with nursery plants. The contractor will use either sod or hydro seed to replace lawn areas. They will maintain the new lawn for an agreed-upon length of time after installation.



We remove the top 6 to 18 inches of contaminated soil.



We bring in new soil to backfill the area.



We install sod or seed to replace the lawn.

Q: When will cleanup work start on my yard?

A: We hope to start planning this winter and begin cleanup summer/fall 2016.

Q: How long will soil removal and yard restoration take?

A: Planning and preparation for soil removal can take several months. Cleanup and restoration of the yard can take up to six weeks. Contractors may need more time if there is inclement weather or holidays.

Q: What areas may not be included in soil removal?

A: We likely cannot remove soil under:

- Buildings with foundations.
- Low decks.
- Sidewalks, patios, or driveways.
- Walls, ponds, or pools.
- Septic tanks or other underground structures.

We may place a covering of soil or other landscaping material in areas where we cannot remove soil.

Q: Are there any costs to the property owner?

A: A normal soil removal project should not cost the property owner anything. After cleanup, expenses may include watering and maintaining your new lawn or plants (after the contractor maintenance period has ended) and paying for any extra landscaping you want.

Q: Can I opt out of the program now and join later?

A: No, you cannot join after you have opted out. This cleanup is voluntary but only offered for a limited time.



The homeowner must mow, water and care for the new lawn after contractor maintenance period.

Q: What are my responsibilities as the property owner?

A: Provide yard access for any additional sampling or topographic surveying needed. Provide input during our yard restoration and cleanup planning visits.

Before work starts, you must provide access to the yard, driveway and adjacent street or alley. This may include parking vehicles on the street and out of the driveway, moving lawn equipment and furniture, and picking up kids' play equipment.

Our contractor will water and care for the new landscaping for an agreed-upon length of time. After this, you must care for the new lawn and other plants.

For More Information

Visit: <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=3020>

Facility ID# 1019 Cleanup Site ID# 3020

Questions? Contact:

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Public Involvement Coordinator, Stacy Galleher, 360-407-6255, Email: Stacy.Galleher@ecy.wa.gov

To request **ADA accommodation**, call Ecology at 360-407-6300, Relay Service 711, or TTY 877-833-6341.