

Construction Alert: Tacoma

Call the Project Line (360) 407-7688 (x 2)

Please call the project line if you have any concerns about a yard replacement site. Staff will return all calls by the next business day.

Questions?

Crescent Calimpong
 Yard Program Outreach
 (360) 407- 6790

Crescent.Calimpong@ecy.wa.gov

Amy Hargrove
 Remediation Manager
 (360) 407- 6262
Amy.Hargrove@ecy.wa.gov

Health Information and Soil Sampling

Tacoma-Pierce County
 Health Department
 (253) 798-3503
DirtAlert@tpchd.org
www.tpchd.org/dirtalert

To request materials in a format for the visually impaired, visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>, call Ecology at 360-407-6831, Relay Service 711, or TTY 877-833-6341.

Facility Site ID: 89267963
 Site Cleanup ID: 3657



Figure 1. Twenty-nine yards receiving soil replacement in 2020.

Soil replacement in yards in Tacoma

As part of Ecology's ongoing work to clean up arsenic and lead through the **Residential Yard Sampling and Cleanup Program**, we are currently working on 29 yards (see Figure 1). Most of the yards are located on N Whitman, between N 45th Street and N 37th Street.

This neighborhood will see increased traffic from construction vehicles **March through December 2020**.

Construction schedule

Equipment operation hours will be from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday and some Saturdays with permission from Ecology.

The work will be completed in phases, with multiple crews working at the same time. Construction on a single yard can take several months to complete. Please expect construction related traffic in the neighborhood.

Please call us immediately if you see:

- Dust in the air from construction.
- Soil on the sidewalk or street.
- Mud or water running off the property.
- Dump trucks without covers.

What to expect during construction

- Loud construction noise.
- Dump trucks and other equipment coming and going.
- Increased traffic on residential streets or private roads.

Healthy Actions

Please continue to enjoy your yard! You can use Healthy Actions to protect your family:

<https://dirtalert.info/>



WASH YOUR HANDS
with soap and water



TAKE OFF YOUR SHOES
at the door



WASH ALL FRUITS AND VEGETABLES
before eating

Why is Ecology doing soil replacement in North Tacoma?

For nearly 100 years, ASARCO operated a smelter in north Tacoma. Lead, arsenic and other heavy metals were carried by the wind, and settled on surface soils in King, Pierce and Thurston Counties.

While the smelter closed in 1986, arsenic and lead remain in the soil. In 2009, the State of Washington received a settlement from Asarco to replace soil in yards with arsenic over 100 parts per million (ppm). As a state agency, Ecology runs the Residential Yard Sampling and Cleanup Program, removing and replacing soil in the most contaminated areas of the Tacoma Smelter Plume.

Today we continue work started by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The EPA cleaned up the worst contamination- arsenic levels of 230 parts per ppm and above, and continues to fund soil replacement for any properties found with contamination at this level.

What's in the soil in my yard?

We may already have soil sampling results for your yard. Sampling results and soil replacement paperwork are publicly available online. To check, visit our online map:

<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/dirtalert/>

If you do not find results on the database, you may qualify for free soil sampling. Contact the Department of Ecology (see phone numbers and email on front) for more information.

Does my yard qualify for soil replacement?

Ecology replaces soil in areas of the yard with arsenic over 100 ppm. Not all yards qualify for free soil replacement. If you would like to know if your yard qualifies, check our online map, or call the project line at (360) 407-7688 (press 2).

Our Yard, Our Health: Take Healthy Actions

Healthy Actions are simple things you and your family can do to reduce contact with arsenic and lead in dirt. Healthy Actions are for everyone. They are simple practices like taking your shoes off at the door, or washing your hands after working or playing outside.

To learn more about our program, please visit our webpage:

<http://ecology.wa.gov/Tacoma-smelter>