

Yard Program Construction Notice

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.

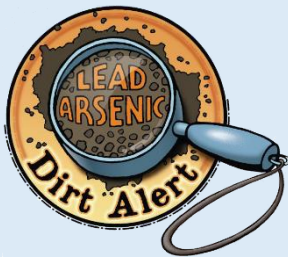
Questions?

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



Facility Site ID: 89267963

Site Cleanup ID: 3657

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.

The neighborhood will see increased traffic from construction vehicles **June 2020 through February 2021**.

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. 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



Contractors remove soil at a yard in North Tacoma.

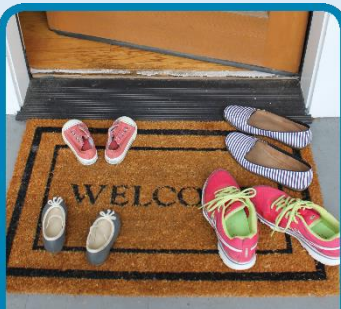
Healthy Actions

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

www.tpchd.org/dirtalert



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. 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 or above 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 on our online map:

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

If you do not find results in the database, you may qualify for free soil sampling. Contact the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department (Health Department) at DirtAlert@tpchd.org or (253) 798-3503.

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 Healthy Actions, go to the Health Department's webpage:

www.tpchd.org/dirtalert

Healthy Actions close up: Covering bare patches of soil with mulch



Wood chips are a good way to cover bare patches of soil in the garden and around the home. Wood chips are a kind of mulch.

Bark or arborist chips is a great option around plants. It helps with weed control and moisture retention. This type of mulch works well in play areas if your kids keep their shoes on.

Laying down landscape fabric before applying mulch can help create a good barrier. Lay down the landscape fabric first and attach it with landscaping staples. Then spread four to six inches of wood playground chips or mulch on top. Mulch won't last forever, so it is important to refresh your ground coverings every few months, or when you see exposed soil.

The Yard Program and COVID-19



A Yard Program banner hangs on a fence in front of a house receiving soil replacement.

Arsenic and lead in your soil can increase your risk for certain health problems. Long-term daily exposure by accidentally swallowing or breathing in soil increases your risks.

One easy way to reduce risks to contaminated soil outside is to create a physical barrier between the soil and you. You can do this by covering bare patches of soil in the yard with mulch.

Mulch is any material you apply to the surface of the soil— wood chips, bark, fabric weed barriers, gravel, rock, rubber mats, and even grass clippings. Wood playground chips are splinter-free and might be your best choice if you have kids. These chips work great for larger areas around play structures and look nice in planting beds where kids like to dig.

We are taking a cautious approach to returning to our construction work in the field. Most Ecology staff are still working from home. As of May 2020, Ecology's offices are closed to the public, but we remain working. With the help of contractors, we are able to resume our Yard Program construction work.

The contractors must follow the state's coronavirus (COVID-19) job site requirements. Workers must maintain a six-foot distance from others, and wear masks while working. The state requires that contractors have a COVID-19 plan on file with Ecology. The plan outlines the safety measures that they will take to keep their workers, and those that they are working around, safe and healthy.

If you have concerns about our contractors, please let us know by calling our project line at 360-407-7688, press 2 to reach the Tacoma Smelter Plume.

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

Construction Alert

Soil Replacement in Yards in Tacoma

In 2020, the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) is removing contaminated soil from 29 residential yards in your neighborhood (see map).

This work is part of the Residential Yard Sampling and Cleanup Program (Yard Program). We replace arsenic and lead contaminated soil from the former Asarco copper smelter in Tacoma.

Learn more

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

Call the Tacoma Smelter Plume Project line:
(360) 407-7688, press 2



Figure 1: Planned 2020 construction. The blue dots represent twenty-nine yards receiving soil replacement in your neighborhood.

To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 360-407-6790 or email at Crescent.Calimpong@ecy.wa.gov, or visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>. For Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341.

FSID: 89267963 CSID: 3657