

Yard Sampling and Cleanup Program

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

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

Questions?

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

Crescent Calimpong
(360) 407- 6790
Crescent.Calimpong@ecy.wa.gov

Health Information and Soil Sampling

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Dept.
(253) 798-3503
DirtAlert@tpchd.org
<https://dirtalert.info>

Department of Ecology's Tacoma
Smelter Plume website
[http://www.ecy.wa.gov/toxics/
tacoma-smelter.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/toxics/tacoma-smelter.html)

Special accommodations

To request ADA accommodation for disabilities, or printed materials in a format for the visually impaired, call Ecology at (360) 407-6790 or visit <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/accessibility.html>. Persons with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. Persons with speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341.

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Soil Replacement in Yards in Tacoma

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) is removing contaminated soil on **80** residential yards in Tacoma in 2016 (see map). This work is part of the **Residential Yard Sampling and Cleanup Program**. The program replaces arsenic and lead soil contamination from the former Asarco copper smelter in Tacoma.

Construction runs June 2016 to February 2017.

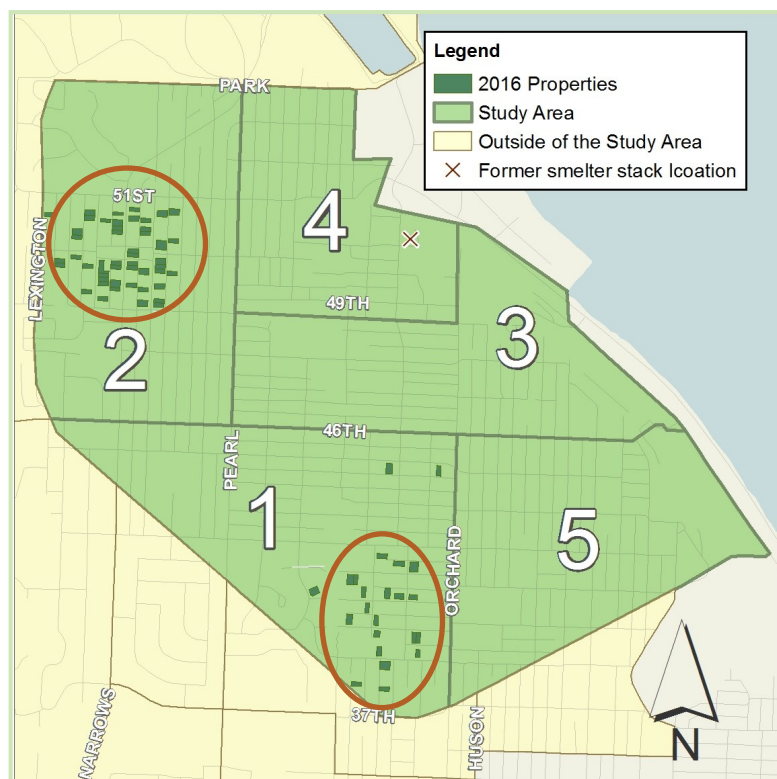
Work hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday and some Saturdays with permission from Ecology. The work will be completed in phases, with multiple crews working on five to ten yards at a time. Construction on an individual yard can take up to 10 weeks to complete. Please expect additional construction related traffic in the neighborhood.

What should you expect during construction?

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

Please call us immediately if you see:

- Dust in the air at the worksite.
- Dirt or dust off the worksite.



The Study Area in Ruston/north Tacoma.

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



**WASH ALL FRUITS
AND VEGETABLES**
before eating



**WEAR SHOES
AND GLOVES**
when gardening and
working outdoors

Why is Ecology doing soil replacement in the Ruston/North Tacoma Superfund Study Area?

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has cleaned up the worst contamination—arsenic levels of 230 parts per million (ppm) and above.

However, Ecology has a lower action level of 100 ppm. We are offering soil replacement for yards where the property has average arsenic above 100 ppm.

We are working in the most contaminated neighborhoods first.

Last year we replaced soil on 71 yards in Area 1 in the Ruston/north Tacoma Study Area. Ecology will offer soil replacement to around **700** homes in the Study Area (see map on front).

In 2016 we will start work in Area 2 and continue performing soil replacement in Area 1. For the first time, we will also meet with homeowners outside of the Study Area to plan for soil replacement in 2017. Ecology will continue to work sequentially through the Study Area. To get your yard scheduled, please respond as soon as you receive your soil replacement offer letter in the mail.

What's in the soil in my yard?

If you live in Ruston or north Tacoma, we may already have sampling results for your yard. To check, visit our online database: <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/areispublic/>. If you do not find results on the database, you can sign up for free soil sampling by contacting the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department (see box on front).

Does my yard qualify for soil replacement?

Not all yards qualify for free soil replacement. We are working neighborhood by neighborhood, through Areas 1 to 5 (see map on front), to notify homeowners on whether or not they qualify for soil removal. If you have not heard from us yet, it is because we have not reached your yard in our schedule. If you would like to know if your yard qualifies, please call the project line at (360) 407-7688 (press 2).

If I do qualify for soil replacement, when will work begin on my yard?

If your yard qualifies for soil replacement, we will contact you when we reach your yard in our schedule. We are completing soil removal in groups of 50 to 100 homes each summer. To learn more about the schedule in your neighborhood, please visit our webpage:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/toxics/tacoma-smelter.html>.