

# Soil Replacement Updates



## Health Questions?

<https://dirtalert.info>

### Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department

(253) 798-3503

[DirtAlert@tpchd.org](mailto:DirtAlert@tpchd.org)

### Public Health Seattle & King County

(206) 477-DIRT

[DirtAlert@kingcounty.gov](mailto:DirtAlert@kingcounty.gov)



## Yard Questions?

### Department of Ecology's Tacoma Smelter Plume

[http://www.ecy.wa.gov/toxics/  
tacoma-smelter.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/toxics/tacoma-smelter.html)

#### Amy Hargrove

(360) 407- 6262

[Amy.Hargrove@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Amy.Hargrove@ecy.wa.gov)

#### Crescent Calimpong

(360) 407- 6790

[Crescent.Calimpong@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Crescent.Calimpong@ecy.wa.gov)

## The Yard Program: An Introduction

You are receiving this newsletter, because your yard qualifies for soil replacement. For nearly 100 years, the Asarco Company operated a copper smelter in Tacoma. Air pollution from the smelter settled on the surface soil over more than **1,000 square miles** of the Puget Sound basin. Arsenic, lead, and other heavy metals are still in the soil as a result of this pollution.

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) offers soil replacement through the Residential Yard Sampling and Cleanup Program (Yard Program). Soil sampling results and Yard Program paperwork can be found by going to our public database:

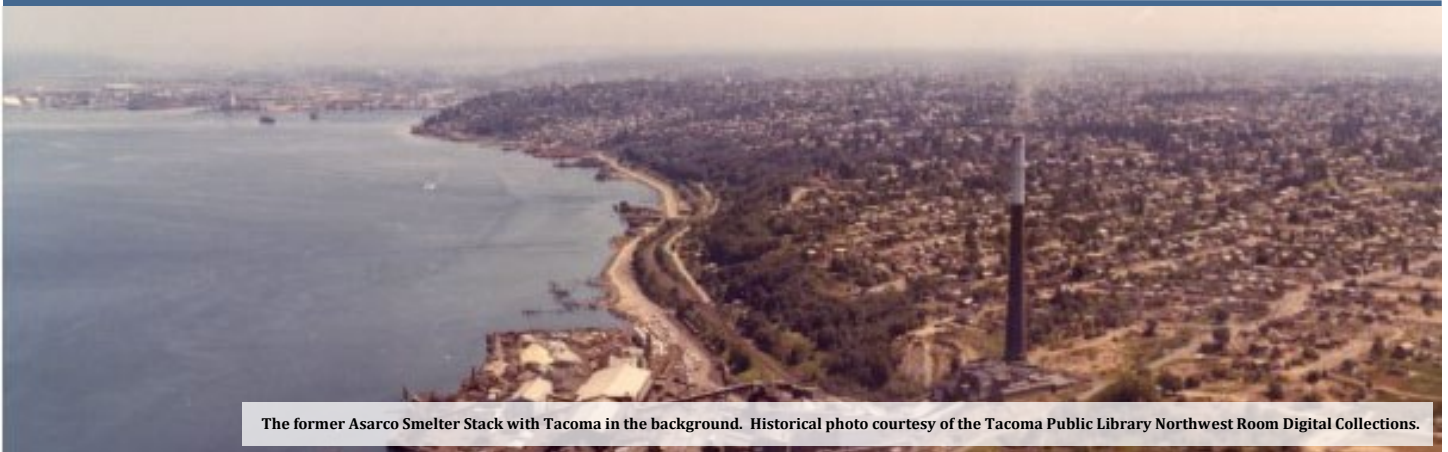
<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/areispublic/>

## The Capital Budget and Yard Program funding

The funding for the Yard Program is from a bankruptcy settlement with the Asarco company. The money sits in the Cleanup Settlement Account, which is a capital budget item. Every two years the legislature must approve Ecology's request to spend the funds. **This year the capital budget was not passed, and we did not receive any new funding.**

Ecology did receive a re-appropriation of the money we did not spend last biennium. We also received money from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to replace soil in yards with arsenic over 230 ppm. These funds allow us to work on a small group of yards this year, and plan for another small group early next year.

In 2018, we will request a supplemental budget to fund our work through the end of the 2017-2019 biennium cycle. We hope to know by early summer if we receive new funding. When we do, we will proceed with our work. At this time, we are pausing most of our construction work.



## Soil replacement progress and updates

We found 1,181 yards that qualify for soil replacement, and we completed work on 228 yards. For the next two years, with slow-downs around the capital budget, we project we are able to complete soil replacement on 30-60 yards each year. When funding becomes available again, our goal is to work with 80-100 yards each year.

It may be several years (3-7 years) before we are able to meet with you to discuss soil replacement. We are working neighborhood by neighborhood to address the most contaminated areas of the plume. This is a long-term project. To see the soil replacement sequence go to: <https://tinyurl.com/y9u8myds>

While you wait for soil replacement, practice healthy actions to reduce your exposure to contaminated soil. For more healthy actions, visit our [healthy actions webpage](#).

## Ecology's new website

Ecology's look is changing. This month Ecology is launching a new website. The new site features a new design, is mobile-friendly, and accessible to people with different abilities. Please update bookmarks or saved links, as the new website's address (URL) is different from our old URL. The address to our public database and smelter search will remain the same.

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

## Ecology's public database and smelter search

Would you like a copy of your soil sampling results? Go to our **public database**. Are you interested in finding out if a yard is within the Tacoma Smelter Plume? Go to the **smelter search**.

**Public Database:** <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/areispublic/>

**Smelter Search:** <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/smeltersearch/>

**Facility Site ID #89267963**  
**Cleanup Site ID #3657**

# OUR YARDS, OUR HEALTH

## What Healthy Actions can we practice to protect ourselves?

- **Wash** hands after playing or working outside.



- Don't track arsenic and lead into your home—**take shoes off!**
- If children crawl or play on the floor in your home, dirt can get on their hands and in their mouths.
- **Vacuum** and damp dust often.
- Keep children's toys, teethers, and pacifiers clean, to keep dirt off hands and out of mouths.



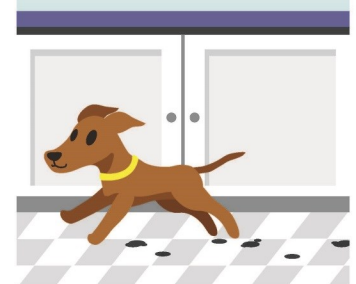
- **Wear** gloves and shoes when you garden. Take them off and wash your hands well when you are done.



- **Wear** a dust mask when mowing in dry conditions.
- **Wet** dry soil when working in garden beds to avoid breathing in dust.



- **Wipe** pet's paws when they come inside, whether wet or dry.



- **Grow** fruits and vegetables in raised beds with clean soil.
- **Wash** all fruits and vegetables before eating.
- **Peel** root vegetables like carrots and potatoes.



- **Cover** bare patches in your yard with grass, groundcover, or mulch.



<https://dirtalert.info>

PO Box 47775

Olympia, WA 98504-7775

## Yard Questions?



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

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



To request materials in a format for the visually impaired, visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>, call Ecology at 360-407-6790, Relay Service 711, or TTY 877-833-6341.