



Kitsap County Public Works  
Solid Waste Division  
614 Division St., M.S. 27  
Port Orchard, WA 98366

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Permit #231  
Seattle, WA

\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*\*\*\*  
RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER



# WasteWise Communities

Kitsap County Public Works Utilities News You Can Use

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NO. 1  
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Questions and  
comments should  
be addressed to

**Kitsap 1**  
360.337.5777  
help@kitsap1.com

**Kitsap County  
Public Works  
Utilities**

Learn more:

**Solid Waste Division**  
Recycling, garbage, litter,  
business and household  
hazardous waste  
[www.kitsapgov.com/sw](http://www.kitsapgov.com/sw)

**Surface & Stormwater  
Management Program**  
Water quality protection,  
habitat improvement,  
and flood reduction  
[www.kitsapgov.com/sswm](http://www.kitsapgov.com/sswm)

**Wastewater Division**  
Sewer service,  
wastewater treatment  
plants, pump and  
lift stations  
[www.kitsapgov.com/ww](http://www.kitsapgov.com/ww)



## New Disposal Options for Old Medicines

What is the concern? Old medicines are endangering our children through accidental poisonings and abuse, and polluting the water supply threatening our health and the environment. Scientists are beginning to find chemicals from pharmaceuticals in almost every sample taken from surface water, sewage effluent, and drinking water in the U.S. and Canada. According to the Kitsap County Health District's fact sheet on pharmaceuticals disposal, in Washington State:

- Emergency visits involving nonmedical use of narcotic pain relievers rose 111% from 2004-2008.
- Fatal poisonings rose 395% from 1990-2006.
- 32% of child poisoning deaths were caused by someone else's prescription drugs and 26% were caused by over the counter drugs.
- 60% of teens report that prescription pain relievers are easy to get from parent's medicine cabinets.

## What can I do to help?

Reduce access to drugs. Anyone can take prescription, over the counter (OTC), or veterinary drugs to a medicine take-back location for proper management.

- Group Health Cooperative**
- 10452 Silverdale Way NW, Silverdale
  - 1400 Pottery Avenue, Port Orchard
  - 19379 7th Avenue NE, Poulsbo

- Bainbridge Island Police Dept.**  
(no OTC accepted)
- 625 Winslow Way E,  
Bainbridge Island

## Why can't I just throw them away or flush them down the toilet?

Medicines may dissolve in a landfill's leachate, which is often trucked to a wastewater treatment plant not designed to treat and remove medicines. This also means locally if medicines are flushed down the toilet, they may end up in Puget Sound.

Past advice was to crush pills to "disguise" them, then throw them in the trash. In some cases this can be particularly harmful—the medicine dust may be breathed in, absorbed through your skin, or contaminate your next meal.



Free and easy medicine take-back is currently available at four locations in Kitsap County

## Product Stewardship

With the expansion of curbside recycling, most people don't have a lot of garbage left over. End-of-life products—products that no longer work—make up to 75% of the remaining garbage. Many of these products contain difficult to recycle and/or hazardous materials.

Traditionally, County government and rate payers have paid the cost of disposal of these end-of-life products. A different approach, called product stewardship, is taken in Europe and Canada. There, manufacturers are responsible for setting up and paying for recycling or disposal of end-of-life products.

Product stewardship programs are catching on here as well. For example, when you buy a new car battery, you take back your dead battery and get a refund. Several years ago, Washington State enacted a law requiring computer manufacturers to set up and pay for computer recycling. You can now recycle computers at no charge throughout Washington state. For more information on E-Cycle, visit [www.kitsapgov.com/sw](http://www.kitsapgov.com/sw).

To learn more about product stewardship, take a look at the Northwest Product Stewardship Council's website: [www.productstewardship.net](http://www.productstewardship.net). They are working to achieve product stewardship solutions for old medicines, carpet, paint, and other materials.

## You can make a difference!

Does this mean it's recyclable?  
*Not Necessarily.*



Look inside to find out why.

## What Do I Do With It?



Where to donate, recycle, and dispose of household items  
[www.kitsapgov.com/sw](http://www.kitsapgov.com/sw)

## We want your opinion!

We'd love to hear from you about this issue and what you'd like to see in future issues. Please take a moment to answer our brief survey and enter in a drawing for a car wash coupon book, worm bin, or backyard composting tools, all valued at \$75 or more. Visit [www.kitsapgov.com/sw](http://www.kitsapgov.com/sw) to take the survey.

## What Do I Do With...

Information on how to donate, recycle, or throw away items you no longer want.

### Oil and or gas filled equipment

Sometimes how to recycle or dispose of an unwanted item stumps even the best recycler - items like old lawn mowers and oil-filled heaters. If you want to recycle them as scrap metal, they must be emptied of fluids, tires, and other non-metal parts. Visit *What Do I Do With It* to find out who accepts scrap metal.

### Branches

Wind can topple trees and scatter branches, leaving you with a heap of debris. This is the perfect time to sign up for curbside yard waste recycling, available in all burn ban areas. With curbside service you can conveniently recycle cut up branches as well as grass, leaves, yard and garden trimmings, and food waste in a 96-gallon cart – and it costs less than garbage collection. Call your garbage hauler to sign up.

Wood waste processors in our area offer an inexpensive recycling option for those with a truckload of yard waste. Visit *What Do I Do With It* and see "Gardening" on the list.

### Empty motor oil/pesticide/paint containers

Do empty motor oil, pesticide, or paint containers need special handling? No. Throw empty containers in your garbage. They are not household hazardous waste. Do not recycle them.



## What Do I Do With It?

Where to donate, recycle, and dispose of household items  
[www.kitsapgov.com/sw](http://www.kitsapgov.com/sw)

## Curbside Recycling Corner

### Please, no plastic bags in recycle carts!

Why? Plastic bags clog the machinery that sorts your recyclables. Waste Management reports sorting equipment has to shut down at least twice a day for employees to cut the plastic bags out by hand. This slow-down can drive up program costs.

If you use bags to collect recycling, empty the items into the cart and throw away any bags that are soiled. Clean plastic bags are recyclable at most grocery stores.

Better yet, bring clean reusable bags for grocery shopping and collect your recyclables in a tub, box or bucket.

### No charge for extra recycling at the curb

There is no limit on the amount of clean recycling you can set out for collection. Put occasional extra recycling that doesn't fit in your 64-gallon recycling cart into cardboard boxes no larger than 2' x 2' x 2', or a 32-gallon can (with handles) clearly marked "RECYCLE". There is no extra charge for this service.

## Some Items are just too good to toss

After spring cleaning, you may find you have good reusable items you no longer need. It is free and easy to donate or sell items through 2Good2Toss.com. All items need to be priced at \$99 or less.



**The garage sale that never sleeps!**  
Almost 7,000 successful exchanges since 2004

## Donation Station

Many surplus building items can be donated to St. Vincent de Paul in Bremerton or Builder's Bargains in Bremerton, Belfair, and Suquamish. Always call ahead for details. Visit *What Do I Do With It* for more details.



## The Recycle Symbol



The symbol on the bottom of plastics doesn't automatically mean it can be recycled in all areas.

The recycle symbol and number inside it identify the type of plastic the item is made of. It does not mean it is recyclable. Some types of plastics cannot be melted and remolded due to the type of manufacturing process used.

The bottom line: Ignore the symbol on the bottom of the container. When it comes to recycling plastics in Kitsap County, it's "Bottles, jugs, jars, and dairy tubs".

## Getting too many phone books?

You can stop receiving them!  
[www.yellowpagesoptout.com](http://www.yellowpagesoptout.com)



## Grow Green With Less Chemicals

Choosing compost over chemicals is good for your yard, your family, and Puget Sound. It's okay to want green lawns and gorgeous flowers. But too much fertilizer or too many bug killers aren't necessary. Compost nourishes plants and is a healthier alternative than exposing children and pets to dangerous yard chemicals. Refer to the insert for information on how to make compost.



Learn more at:  
[Puget Sound Starts Here.org](http://PugetSoundStartsHere.org)

## Volunteer for your Stream



Want to roll up your sleeves for your neighborhood stream? Help with habitat assessments, planting projects, stream restoration, salmon monitoring, and other fun projects.

Contact Arno Bergstrom with WSU Kitsap County Extension at (360) 337-7225 or [Abergstr@co.kitsap.wa.us](mailto:Abergstr@co.kitsap.wa.us) for more information.

## Your Dog, Your Doodie

**Kitsap County dogs drop more than 11 tons of waste each day.**

Landfills are designed to safely handle pet waste. Yards, trails, streets, parks, toilets, and compost piles are not.

Harmful organisms can spread from pet waste to other pets and people; some can live for weeks in yards and streams.

### FREE Mutt Mitt Dispensers Available

Enhance the safety and enjoyment of neighborhood common areas, trails, and other open spaces by making pet waste cleanup easy and convenient for dog owners.

Visit [www.kitsapgov.com/sswm/muttmitt.htm](http://www.kitsapgov.com/sswm/muttmitt.htm) or call Kitsap 1 at (360) 337-5777 for more information.



[www.kitsapgov.com/sswm/](http://www.kitsapgov.com/sswm/)

## Rain Gardens Pay Off!

**Receive up to \$500 in reimbursement for installing a rain garden.**

The Rain Garden Cost Share Program helps solve water problems, improves water quality, and reduces runoff. Rain gardens are beautifully landscaped depressions with special soils that soak up runoff from your roof, driveway, and other impervious areas. Homeowners in unincorporated Kitsap County are reimbursed for 50% of rain garden installation costs, up to \$500. Take advantage of this great program by contacting Teresa Brooks with the Kitsap Conservation District at (360) 337-7171 ext. 24 or [t-brooks@conservewa.net](mailto:t-brooks@conservewa.net).



The solution is easy: Scoop the poop, bag it, and place it in the trash – for clean shoes and clean water.