



## **Council establishes new City regulations for storage containers**

After considering the issue for a year, the City Council has adopted regulations that would limit the use of cargo or shipping containers for storage in Tukwila's residential and commercial areas. These are the corrugated metal containers, usually 8 feet wide and 20 to 40 feet long, originally designed to hold cargo on trucks, trains or ships. The Council has taken this action in response to citizen complaints about rusting and unsightly containers, primarily in residential areas. Industrial zones and businesses using the containers for the transportation of freight are exempt from the new regulations.

Under the new regulations:

- All existing containers in residential or commercial areas would have to apply for a permit from the City or be removed within one year (4/15/03).
- All new containers in residential and commercial areas would require an approved permit before being installed.
- In residential areas, new cargo containers will only be allowed for institutional uses such as schools, food banks and hospitals.
- Containers would still be allowed on construction sites in all areas for temporary storage of materials and equipment.

Permit requirements:

- Only one existing container can be grandfathered per residential lot. Commercial lots can keep up to two.
- Only two new containers will be allowed per commercial lot or institutional use in a residential zone, and they may not be stacked.
- The container(s) must be located and screened to minimize visibility from the street and neighboring properties.
- The container(s) cannot occupy any required parking spaces and must meet setback requirements.
- Cargo containers next to buildings must be painted to match the building's color.
- Outdoor containers may not be refrigerated.

For more details about the new rules, call Nora Gierloff in the Department of Community Development, 206-431-3670.