

# Waste not, want not applies to roads, too

It has been two years of all-out road work throughout all of Twin Falls, and understandably, to the driving public it might seem there is no end in sight.

But that's not the purpose of this article.

The city of Twin Falls is asking the public to be helpful about one particular piece of road construction: Eastland Drive near Hillcrest Drive. As of Oct. 4, concrete has been poured there, and so the intersection at Addison Ave. E is blocked off to let the concrete dry and cure. It takes a minimum of about 10 days for the concrete to harden up enough for traffic to resume.

Nonetheless, concrete is a substance that continues to harden indefinitely. For this particular portion of Twin Falls roadway, it would be a huge money-savings for taxpayers if heavy load-bearing trucks could be kept off this street until the end of November. This would allow that stretch of concrete to cure to the extent that it will last many more years than if too much weight is put on it prematurely.

There are a number of alternative routes for truckers coming over the Perrine Bridge from Jerome County. Those truckers could take Blue Lakes, but because of eleven stop-lights and traffic congestion, they might decide to use the Hansen Bridge. Taking the Hansen Bridge will amount to about an extra nine miles per one-way trip if a trucker is traveling to the sugar factory or to a dairy manufacturing plant, etc.

In addition, by the end of October, Pole Line Road with a turn onto Washington Street North might make an excellent alternative. The Idaho Transportation Department expects the Washington project to be completed to the point where all lanes are reopened.

The city of Twin Falls has not made it mandatory for truckers to avoid using Eastland, but in this case, city officials ask businesses that use this route for heavy loads to find alternatives through October and November. It is the right thing to do.



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Address:  
321 2nd Ave. E  
P.O. Box 1907  
Twin Falls, ID 83303-1907

Emergency phone: 911  
Non-emergency phone: 311  
City Hall: 735-7287  
[www.tfid.org](http://www.tfid.org)

## *Season reminders*

**Leaves:** You can take your leaves to the city's leaf composting site at 170 Maxwell Avenue beginning Oct. 10 until Dec. 6th. When you leave them at that site, they must be loose. So that means you take your bags back home. Also, city staff asks that you do not leave garbage or yard waste at the leaf composting site. So how do you find the site? If you are traveling south on Shoshone Street, turn left immediately before you reach the Old Towne Bridge. The drop-off site is just east of the city Parks & Recreation building.

**Sprinkler systems:** If you water your property with a sprinkler system, now is the time to make sure you winterize it by turning it off and blowing out the water.

## *Good news about our water*

Residents don't have to worry about fluoride in their tap water. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, the most recent test of Twin Falls drinking water shows the naturally occurring fluoride level is nearly perfect.

The city of Twin Falls is nearing the completion of an \$18.5 million project to filter out arsenic in order to meet the new lowered standard for arsenic in drinking water.

Now the EPA is considering lowering its standard for fluoride from 4.0 milligrams per liter to between 0.7 and 1.2 milligrams. Twin Falls comes in at .728 milligrams per liter, which means the city doesn't have to add or reduce fluoride, and if the EPA lowers the standard, Twin Falls will not be affected.



**About three-quarters of drinking water for the city of Twin Falls actually comes from the Blue Lakes in Jerome**

"Without having to do anything, the EPA says we are right where they want us to be," said City Water Supervisor Rob Bohling.

To give you an idea of how much 4.0 milligrams is, there are 236,000 milligrams in one cup of water.

Fluoridation does not affect the appearance, taste or smell of drinking water. The goal of water fluoridation is to prevent tooth decay by adjusting the concentration of fluoride in public water supplies.

Cavities remain a major public health concern in most industrialized countries, affecting 60–90% of schoolchildren and the vast majority of adults. Water fluoridation prevents cavities in both children and adults, with studies estimating an 18–40% reduction in cavities when water fluoridation is used by children who already have access to toothpaste and other sources of fluoride.

To access information about the chemical makeup of Twin Falls drinking water, go to the city website at [www.tfid.org](http://www.tfid.org), type "water" into the search utility at the top left-hand side of the home page, and then click onto "about our water." You can also learn more about fluoride on the EPA website.