DID YOU KNOW?

System Housekeeping
FLUSHING PROGRAM KEEPS CLEAN WATER FLOWING

Water Quality Report Update
Each year, Skagit PUD provides its customers with an annual Water Quality Report to let them know how our water quality stacks up against established federal and state drinking water standards. We encourage you to review this report as it provides details about the source and quality of the drinking water delivered to your community in 2018. Included with the report is the annual progress update on Skagit PUD’s Water Use Efficiency goals.

The Water Quality Report will be available starting July 1. Please visit us online to view your water quality report at https://www.skagitpud.org/media/82697/CCR2018.pdf.

If you wish to have a paper copy, you can print one directly from our website or you can receive a printed version by contacting the Water Quality department at (360) 848-2135.

Rain Barrels For Sale
Collecting rainwater is an easy way to conserve water—and save money on your water bill. Skagit PUD sells ready to install 55-gallon rain barrels for just $60 plus tax. If you would like more information about Skagit PUD’s low-cost rain barrel program, please visit our website at SkagitPUD.org or call (360) 424-7104.

A PART OF Skagit PUD’s ongoing maintenance and water quality efforts, the PUD conducts a water line flushing program throughout its 650 mile water system. Flushing is a process that rapidly removes sediment from the PUD’s water piping system, similar to the process of flushing a car’s radiator. Flushing uses water force to scour out materials that accumulate in pipes. Water pipes are usually flushed by opening fire hydrants, where the discharged water flows off the streets the same as rainwater. The water flow is measured and the chlorine in the water is neutralized.

Why are we flushing?
Imagine driving down the road at less than 1½ miles per hour. That’s about the rate that water moves through underground pipes. This slow movement causes sediment, such as rust and mineral particles, to build up over time and accumulate along the pipe’s bottom. A buildup of harmless microorganisms can also coat the pipe’s inner surface. If left unchecked, the materials can restrict water flow in the pipes and contribute to the pipe corroding.

Rapid water pressure changes, such as water main breaks and the use of fire hydrants, can stir up the sediment and dislodge deposits lining the pipe, resulting in a “dirty water” appearance.

Periodically flushing water pipes removes the material buildup, maintains infrastructure, and assures consistent, good quality water.

Isn’t flushing a waste of water?
Although it may appear to waste water, this process is part of routine maintenance necessary to maintain the integrity of the water system and to continue to deliver the highest quality water possible to our customers.

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Flushing: Keeping Clean Water Flowing

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Skagit PUD is committed to water use efficiency and good resource management practices. The flushing program is monitored to ensure that the least amount of water is used. The PUD continually analyzes system-wide performance standards to minimize water use, including on-going efforts to identify and repair leaks.

How will this affect customers?

In advance of crews being in your area, Skagit PUD will alert customers by placing high-visibility sign boards throughout your neighborhood.

Residential flushing is generally conducted between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., Monday through Friday. For businesses and medical services, crews will attempt to coordinate times to ensure the least degree of impact.

Customers may notice low water pressure, discolored water, or no water for short periods of time when flushing is taking place. We recommend customers limit their water use. You should avoid using hot water to prevent sediment accumulation in your hot water tank.

Water discoloration primarily consists of harmless silt and precipitates, which do not affect the safety of the water. However, we strongly recommend not washing a load of laundry, especially white items, in order to prevent potential staining.

If you experience discoloration in your water after crews have been flushing, clear the pipes in your own home by running all water faucets on cold, starting with faucets outside first, for a minute or two.

For flushing questions, call Distribution Foreman Ryan Anderson at (360) 840-7709.

Stop the Drain on Your Dollars

You may think those little leaks in your bathroom don’t amount to a drop in the bucket. Not so. The sneakiest drip can be found in your bathroom toilet. Toilet tank leaks, almost undetectable to the naked eye, can add significantly to your monthly bill.

Toilets use about 26 percent of all of the water in the average home. Toilets are also one of the likeliest places to find leaks. According to WaterSense, a partnership program by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 10 percent of homes have leaks that waste 90 gallons or more per day. If your toilet is running constantly, you could be wasting 200 gallons of water or more every day.

Sometimes it is easy to tell that your toilet is leaking—you hear the sound of running water or a faint hissing or trickling. But many times, water flows through the tank silently, which is why toilet leaks are often overlooked.

To test your toilet, lift the lid off the toilet tank. Drop one Leak Detective dye tablet (free at Skagit PUD) or several drops of food coloring into the tank (do not flush). Wait at least 15 minutes and check the bowl of the toilet. If there is dye in the bowl, the toilet has a leak.

If you have to jiggle the handle to keep the toilet from running, it may be a misaligned flapper valve, a loose handle, or an incorrect length of chain.

For steps on how to repair common toilet leaks, visit SkagitPUD.org.

While some toilet repairs are easy, others are more complicated. Know your limitations—call a plumber if you have any concerns about how to make a repair.

Free toilet leak tablets are available at Skagit PUD’s main office.

Your Water in Numbers

28 Operating PUDs in Washington; 24 PUDs provide electricity, 18 provide water or water and wastewater services, and 14 offer wholesale broadband telecommunications.

650 Miles of water pipeline Skagit PUD maintains in its distribution system.

3 Publicly elected Skagit PUD commissioners. The commissioners are elected by the community and serve six-year terms on a nonpartisan basis.

83 Years in Existence. On November 3, 1936, Public Utility District No. 1 of Skagit County was formed by voters.

14,600 Gallons of water consumed in a lifetime by the average person who intakes eight cups of water per day and lives to age 80.

7 Customer service and billing representatives at Skagit PUD available to assist you with your account. Overall, the district employees 80 people to serve the 70,000 residents in our service area.

1.45 billion Gallons of water that can be impounded at Judy Reservoir. Water diverted from four creeks and the Skagit are used to fill the reservoir.