Did You Know?

Miles of pipe
Approximately one million miles of pipelines and aqueducts carry water in the United States and Canada. That’s enough to circle the earth 40 times. Skagit PUD maintains over 650 miles of pipe in Skagit County.

Water purification
More than 79,000 tons of chlorine are used per year in the United States and Canada to treat water. In 1850, chlorine in lime-water was used to purify the water supply in London after an outbreak of cholera. Chlorine treatment in water has greatly contributed to a nearly 30-year increase in life expectancy during the last century.

Goodbye to postage stamps
Online bill payment can simplify your life. Easily create an account. View and pay your water bills anytime on any device.

Using the Customer Portal, you can link and pay multiple accounts, view your billing history, and set up automatic payments.

The program provides a more convenient payment option and helps customers avoid late fees by offering 24/7 access to view their account information and/or pay their bill.

Test Your Emergency Preparedness IQ

Will you be ready if disaster strikes?

If a disaster strikes in our community, tap water may not be safe to drink or use. It is important to prepare for possible emergency situations ahead of time by preparing an emergency water supply for yourself and your family.

In emergency situations, use bottled water if possible; bottled water is the safest choice for drinking and all other uses. If bottled water is not available, it is essential to know how to make contaminated water safe to drink and how to find alternate sources of water.

Test your knowledge about water use and safety in an emergency:

1. In a disaster, alternative sources of clean water can be found inside the home. Can you name three sources?
   - Melted ice cubes.
   - Liquid from canned fruit and vegetables.
   - Water from your home’s water heater tank.

2. In a disaster, alternative sources of water can be found outside the home. Can you name three sources?
   - Rainwater
   - Streams, rivers, and other moving bodies of water
   - Ponds and lakes
   - Natural springs

3. In a disaster, if you don’t have safe bottled water, you should do what to water make it safe?
   A. Add chlorine
   B. Add iodine
   C. Boil it

   Answer: C. Boiling is the surest method to make water safer to drink by killing disease-causing organisms, including viruses, bacteria, and parasites. Iodine and chlorine can kill most harmful organisms, such as viruses and bacteria, but are not as effective in controlling more resistant organisms such as the parasites cryptosporidium and giardia.

   IMPORTANT: Water contaminated with fuel or toxic chemicals will not be made safe by boiling or disinfection.

4. The minimum amount of water each individual needs per day for sanitation and drinking is?
   A. 1 gallon
   B. 5 gallons
   C. 16 ounces

   Answer: A. Store at least one gallon of water per day for each person and each pet. You should consider storing more water than this for hot climates, for pregnant women, and for persons who are sick. Store at least a three-day supply of water for each person and each pet (try to store a two-week supply if possible).

5. If the water you’ve stored for an emergency hasn’t been commercially bottled, how often should it be replaced?
   A. Every 3 months
   B. Every 6 months
   C. Once a year
   D. Not until it starts to turn green

   Answer: B. Every 6 months

Source: Center for Disease Control & Prevention
Dreaming of a Better Bathroom? Remodel It With WaterSense

BATHROOMS ARE BY FAR THE LARGEST WATER USERS IN the home, accounting for more than half of all the water that families use indoors. If you are planning to remodel your bathroom, did you know plumbing fixtures are available in a wide variety of colors, models, and prices to help you save water and money? Advances in plumbing technology and design mean that faucets, showers, and toilets can use significantly less water than standard models while still delivering the rinse, spray, and flush you expect.

Skagit PUD is a partner in the EPA’s WaterSense program, which encourages customers to look for WaterSense labeled products. The products have been independently certified for efficiency and performance, and promote water-saving techniques that reduce stress on water systems and the environment. Just look for the WaterSense label to find products at retailers in our area.

Giving your bathroom a high-efficiency makeover by replacing older, inefficient bathroom fixtures with a WaterSense labeled toilet, faucet, and showerhead can help your household save in more ways than one.

| Streams Diameter at 50 psi | Water: 7,000 gallons annually. Enough to wash six months’ worth of laundry. | Electricity: 200 kilowatt-hours annually. Enough electricity to run a refrigerator for two months. | Money: $60 in utility bills annually. Enough that the fixtures will pay for themselves in as little as 2 1/2 years. |
|---|---|---|
| Inches | Gallons | Daily Average |
| 1/4” | 1,181,000 | 13,122 |
| 3/16” | 652,000 | 7,244 |
| 1/8” | 296,000 | 3,288 |
| 1/16” | 74,000 | 822 |

Source: Environmental Protection Agency

Ignoring Drips and Leaks Can Cost You Money

Have you identified a leak in your plumbing system? Sometimes a leak can be identified by the sound of running water or by a constant damp area; however, sometimes the only way to become aware of it is to notice an increase in the water usage that could sharply increase your water bill.

The vast majority of high bills are due to hidden or ignored water leaks. In the case of some significant leaks, once the leak is repaired, you may qualify for a leak adjustment.

To be eligible for an adjustment, you must make timely repairs and meet certain criteria, such as:

- You haven’t received a prior leak adjustment at your service address within a 12-month period.
- The leak that caused the high consumption has been repaired.
- Have proof of repairs; such as receipts for labor, parts, or equipment.

For more information, please call Customer Service at (360) 424-7104.

School Field Trips

Did you know that Skagit PUD offers school group tours of Judy Reservoir, the Water Treatment Plant and a visit to a stream within the watershed? Transportation reimbursement is available for schools served by Skagit PUD water, and includes the bus driver fee plus mileage. The tour is recommended for students ages nine (4th-grade) and up. The program focuses on an exploration of water’s role in our environment and society, with an emphasis on the importance of a safe and reliable water supply.

Large school groups visiting the Water Treatment Plant should plan for 1.5 – 2 hours.

For more information about the Judy Reservoir tour and curriculum materials, please visit our website at SkagitPUD.org or call (360) 848-4477.

Left: Leaks in your system can cause property damage, waste thousands of gallons of water, and cost you money.