

WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

Smart Scope Benefits: By eliminating unnecessary grass, using more efficient lawn sprinklers, and using drought-tolerant plants you can lower your water use and create a more usable and pleasing landscape that fits your families' needs. This not only conserves water, but helps your water resource by using less pesticides and fertilizers and helps ensure a future water supply.

Overwatering Lawns and Gardens: 50% of water that is used for irrigating lawns and gardens, on average, is wasted due to overwatering and evaporation. Installation of water-saving sprinkler heads will use less water. Also, water your lawn and garden in the morning or evening to minimize evaporation.

Household Water Leaks: Easily corrected household water leaks can account for 8% of the average water bill. These leaks can include: leaky toilets, dripping faucets, sprinkler system leaks, etc. These can be easily fixed and can save dollars on your water bill. Did you realize that leaking toilets can waste most of the water used in an average household?

High-efficiency Toilets: Did you know that you could save 2.2 to 5.7 gallons on each flush if you install a high-efficiency toilet? By installing this type of toilet you can save bunches of gallons of water and decrease your water bill too! Also, test your current toilet by putting 10 drops of food coloring in the tank. Don't flush for 15 minutes. If the colored water shows up in the bowl, the tank is leaking and will have to be repaired.

Use of the Sink Plug: When you rinse off vegetables and fruits or your dishes, plug the sink instead of using running water. When you are done, instead of draining all the water, use some of it by watering houseplants or potted plants on your porch or deck. Also, use the sink plug when you wash dishes by hand, and when you're finished, turn on the garbage disposal as you pull the plug.

See www.epa.gov/watersense for more valuable information.

Included here is helpful information from the Washington State Department of Ecology and USDA Rural Development.



2011 Annual Water Quality Report

Stevens Public Utility District

June, 2011



The Stevens Public Utility District sends you this ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT each year to keep you informed of the quality of water delivered to you.

CAN YOU DRINK 13,000 GALLONS OF WATER?

One person would have to drink 13,000 gallons of water over 70 years (that would be one-half gallon EVERYDAY FOR A LIFETIME!) to have a ONE-IN-A-MILLION chance of having **any** described health affect from water that may have the maximum contaminant level (MCL) of a substance that is listed in the enclosed table in this Report.

MCLs in drinking water are set at very stringent levels and are monitored by the testing that the water purveyor is required to complete for each water system.

Some people drink only bottled water, which can be very expensive. The Stevens P.U.D. strives to provide your home with safe, quality drinking water, *right from the tap*, which is the best value for your dollar!

All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some substances. It's important to remember that the mere presence of these substances **DOES NOT necessarily create a health risk.**



SHOULD YOU NEED ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON SPECIFIC CONTAMINANTS (SUBSTANCES) THAT ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THIS ANNUAL REPORT, PLEASE CALL THE SAFE DRINKING WATER HOTLINE AT 1-800-426-4791, OR GO TO www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw

The Stevens P.U.D. routinely monitors for more than 180 substances in your water system, including bacteria, nitrates, lead, copper, synthetic organic chemicals (SOCs), volatile organic chemicals (VOCs), and many others. Some of the tests are only required every three (3) years, some annually, while others are required every month. The Table in this Report lists those substances that were detected during the 2010 calendar year. Your water is in compliance with the Federal and State testing requirements.

Some people may be more vulnerable to substances in drinking water than the general population. These include persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with immune system disorders such as HIV/AIDS, and persons with cancer who are undergoing chemotherapy. Some elderly persons and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek the advice from their health care providers about drinking water. Guidelines from the Environmental Protection Agency and the Center for Disease Control on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by microbiological substances, such as cryptosporidium, are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Stevens Public Utility District Currently Owns and Operates 18 Water Systems Serving Approximately 4,700 Homes, Schools, and Businesses!

Eleven of our water systems are in Stevens County and 7 water systems are located in northern Spokane County. We provide safe, quality drinking water as a public, non-profit district, governed by 3 elected Commissioners.

There are 13 employees to serve you, including a team of 7 field employees. We provide emergency service 24 hours, seven days a week.

The Stevens P.U.D. also owns and operates 8 public sewer systems and one Septage Reuse Facility, all located in Stevens County.

If you are not served by one of our sewer systems and need your septic tank pumped, the private pumper of your choice can use our facility to dispose of the septic tank waste. Please have your pumper call our office at 233-2534 for further information.

If you would like more information about your water system, please call our Operations Manager, Larry Isaak, at 233-2534 or 684-7621.



The Stevens P.U.D. is proud that the quality drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. The EPA has determined that your water is safe to drink. As you can see by the Table located in this Report, your system is in compliance with water standards.

The P.U.D. Commissioners have Regular Board Meetings twice a month, on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the P.U.D. Conference Room, located at 3955 Third Avenue, Loon Lake. These meetings are open to the public, so please call our office at 233-2534 if you plan to attend a meeting.

Water resources are a vital part of our communities and of our children's future. The P.U.D. kindly asks each of you, our customers, to help protect and conserve these precious resources. Please refer to the *Water Conservation Tips* within this Report to help you conserve water. **THANK YOU** for your cooperation and support!

Groundwater Word Search

The Groundwater Foundation. Learn more at www.groundwater.org.

A G V E A W A I O N C D R O O U G H T O R
 G F R E D R J H B K E S R U N V C Y T Z M A L
 P R E C I P I T A T I O N U N V A N S W
 T Z O N S I B M L U A P O N A Q D D P
 O H U F E S C I D N L F S P B I U D E
 E W O K N E A P D O G A F U E L U N J R
 R X P J B D N F R T B M T O E N F K M
 C G T W Y U W B S I E C J M I B G R K E
 A U I E E N K A L C N O I E W Q V H A
 N J O L L A I D T A W G E R K O P G K B
 K P U L S W L I E R Y D R O T E H L L
 I O N Y W G S L T U R A T I O N Z O N E
 E L T Z A R G D A T E N M G I J R L M Y
 V L C B L E C H A R G E I S T Q U K A E C
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 U I A O X O J V C H S E F P E M U L R L S
 O T C O N D E N S A T I O N S T I H Y Z
 T O J R M O K S C O R T E Q F H U E M
 S N P I E V A P O R A T I O N J U Q E M
 J C L K N E Q U F M W O M A E L T B S R

aquifer
 desalination
 drink
 drought
 evaporation
 groundwater
 spring
 irrigation

permeable
 precipitation
 recharge
 runoff
 saturation zone
 well

You can make your own rain gauge!
 Maybe you've heard on the weather that an inch of rain fell in the last storm or a half-inch of rain might fall tomorrow. A rain gauge is a tool that measures the amount of rain that falls.

You can make a rain gauge to find out how much water falls in your yard (or anywhere else!) the next time it rains.



You will need:

- a clear plastic soda bottle
- a pair of scissors
- a permanent marker with a sharp point
- small stones or aquarium gravel
- water
- ruler

1. Cut off the top part of the bottle (you may want to ask an adult to help).
 2. Fill the curved part of the bottom of the bottle with small stones or aquarium gravel. This will weight your rain gauge to keep it from falling over.
 3. Pour enough water into the bottle to cover the stones. Use the marker to draw a line at the top surface of the water.
 4. Mark a "0" next to the line. This is your baseline.
 5. Use the ruler and marker to measure 1", 2", and 3" up the bottle from the baseline. Draw a line at each inch mark and label the lines. (Tip: you may want to empty the water out of the bottle before doing this, so you can lay the bottle on its side to measure.)
 6. Use the ruler and marker to measure and mark 1/2", 1/4", 1/8", 1/16", 1/32", etc. on the bottle.
 7. If you want to make your rain gauge more accurate, use the ruler and marker to measure and mark 1/4", 1/8", 1/16", 1/32", etc. on the bottle.
 8. Wait for rain! Or use it when you're watering your lawn.
 9. When the weather forecast predicts rain, or rain starts falling, add water to your rain gauge up to the baseline.
 10. Put the rain gauge outside to catch the rainwater.
 11. When the rain stops, check to see how many inches of rain fell into your rain gauge!
- You may want to make a chart to keep track of how much rain falls in a week or a month. On the chart, list the date it rained and how many inches of rain fell. Add up the rainfall at the end of the week or month.
- Important! Be sure the rain gauge is filled to the baseline before you begin collecting.

Step Into the Kids Zone!!!

