

Getting Ready for Better Weather!

It's been a long winter, and we are excited to see the spring weather bring more sun and warmer temperatures! Here are some tips to help you be water-wise this spring.

Prepare Your Sprinkler Heads

To conserve water, make sure your sprinkler heads are in working order and directed on your lawn and not on sidewalks and streets. It's also important to monitor your system throughout the season to make sure individual sprinkler heads do not become clogged with obstructions like dirt, grass clippings or other debris. Should a sprinkler head be jammed with this material, it can cause an unnecessary buildup in water pressure that can burst the system's water main. Test your system as early as you can and monitor it throughout the season to make sure all heads are running as they are supposed to. It's also a good idea to check each head to make sure they haven't been damaged — perhaps as a result of a pass with the lawnmower. A damaged head does more than simply fail to water the area it is assigned; it can also be a water waster, as fluid is still traveling to the head by the system but isn't being dispensed as it should be. If you do find a damaged sprinkler head, have it replaced immediately.



Caring For Your Lawn

Adjust your lawn mower to 1 ½ to 2 inches. Taller grass shades the roots and holds moisture better than short grass, requiring less watering. Leave lawn clippings on your grass; this cools the ground and holds moisture as well. Water every three days and no more than an inch a week. This encourages the grass roots to grow deeper for a healthier lawn.

Weeds begin to appear in the spring as well. Weeds are notorious for stealing water away from other plants, so if you frequently get rid of weeds you won't have to water as often. With lawns, remove weeds by hand whenever possible to avoid tough competition.

Call Before You Dig

Spring also means home projects like planting new shrubs, erecting new structures, and landscaping projects. When planting trees or shrubs, always call 8-1-1 at least two business days before you dig! This is a free service and all utilities will be located and marked. We ask that you keep shrubs trimmed that are near meter boxes so our meter readers have access to read the dials on the meter.

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Thurston PUD Commissioners

District 1

Linda Oosterman

District 2

Russell E. Olsen

District 3

Chris Stearns

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Getting Ready for Better Weather! (Continued from Page 1)



Check Outside Spigots

Small drips leaking from an outside faucet can add up on your monthly bill if left unrepaired. Before setting up a garden hose sprinkler, check your hose and connections for any drips or leaks and get them repaired before beginning your watering routine.

Form a Neighborhood Watering Schedule

Consider talking with neighbors and forming a neighborhood water schedule. By alternating watering days, your water system can recharge and water pressure will be less impacted. Try to avoid peak water usage times during the day (when the most people are using the most water) and set your watering schedule to the early morning so the sprinklers shut off by 6:00 a.m. This will prevent the water system from being over-taxed by sprinklers and residential morning water use. You can also take a quick look around your neighborhood to see when most of your neighbors run their sprinklers and set yours to start a little later, preserving your water pressure. Some PUD customers use voluntary alternating water schedules with the people around their neighborhoods.

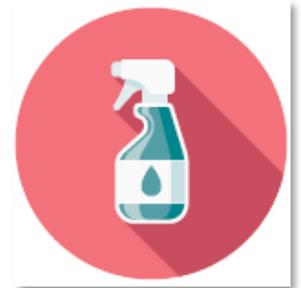
Car Washing

If you are used to washing your vehicle at home with your garden hose, then surely you know the extent of the water you are using. Believe it or not, but car washes nowadays use only 40 gallons of water, which, as you can imagine, is much less than the gallons you would use at home in the driveway.

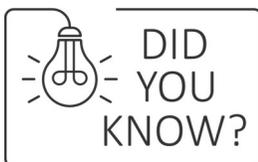
Spring Cleaning

As people start pulling out their buckets and sponges to clean all the nooks and crannies in their homes, here is a friendly reminder there are some ways to conserve water and be a friend to the environment while also keeping your home clean! Below are some useful tips for environmentally-friendly cleaning that helps conserve water:

- **Fill it up, don't let it run.** While cleaning, you can conserve water if you avoid running the tap continuously throughout the process. By filling up a bucket with the amount of water you need to clean, you can avoid excessive waste.
- **Handwashing compared to Dishwasher.** Most modern dishwashers use less water per dish than handwashing, so opt for the dishwasher rather than handwashing next time. Also, try to wait until the dishwasher is filled to run it and you can save up to 1,000 gallons a month!
- **Collect pre-shower water and multitask.** The next time you're waiting for the water to heat up before rinsing off, place a bucket in your shower. That clean, unused water can be repurposed for cleaning, watering plants, or watering animals.
- **Look for leaks while you clean.** Make extra use of your time deep cleaning by checking for wasteful leaks in the bathroom and the kitchen.



Spring usually brings increased water usage for outdoor activities including watering lawns, filling up pools, garden irrigation, and fun stuff (like letting the kids use the water slide). Don't let your water bill surprise you. If you have any questions about your bill, please contact our Customer Service Team by dialing our toll-free number at (866) 357-8783 or send us an email at PUDCustomerService@thurstonpud.org.



The average American family uses more than 300 gallons of water per day at home. Roughly 70 percent of this use occurs indoors. (United States Environment Protection Agency, 2022) For more tips on water conservation, please visit our website at www.thurstonpud.org/water-systems.htm.

Does Your Community Have a Homeowners Association?

If your community is governed by a homeowners association (HOA), we would like to know about it. Please contact our Customer Service Team at (360) 357-8783, toll-free at (866) 357-8783, or send us an email at PUDCustomerService@thurstonpud.org to provide the following information:

- **Name of HOA**
- **Names and Positions of HOA Officers**
- **Contact Phone Numbers**
- **Contact Email Addresses**
- **Website or Facebook Name**



We appreciate your help in obtaining this information so that PUD staff can to work with HOAs to address any issues or concerns within your community. Whenever possible, PUD staff would like to work with HOA Boards to address community water issues.

Keep Your Contact Information Updated!

Our Customer Service Team frequently uses emails and automated messages to contact our customers for a range of issues, from emergency communications to billing status updates. Currently, we have approximately 72 percent of our customers' emails, but our staff would like to get as close to 100 percent as possible! Emails are a great resource that are free, fast, and easy for us to send information to you.

Please keep your email address, phone numbers, and mailing addresses up-to-date with our office. This ensures Customer Service can contact you regarding your account or for scheduled or emergency maintenance on your water system. **Please email us at PUDCustomerService@thurstonpud.org to add your email address to your account or updated other contact information.** You can also call us at (360) 357-8783 or toll-free at (866) 357-8783 to update your contact information over the phone.

Unrepaired Leaks Can Be Costly

Water Loss in Gallons at 50 psi

Leak this Size	Loss per Day	Loss per Month	Loss per Year
●	120	3,600	43,200
●	360	10,800	129,600
●	693	20,790	249,480
●	1,200	36,000	432,000
●	1,920	57,600	691,200
●	3,096	92,880	1,114,560
●	4,296	128,880	1,546,560
●	6,640	199,200	2,390,400
●	6,984	209,520	2,514,240

Unrepaired leaks can cause major water losses over time, and many times these leaks may not be visible to us (e.g. underground leaks where water is absorbed by the earth). The graphic to the left displays how a small leak can have larger consequences than you may imagine.

If your faucet leaks at a rate of one drop per second, the amount of water wasted is about 2,700 gallons per year! That's almost the same amount of water the average American uses in a month according to a recent survey (101 gallons per day per person).

Research indicates that five (5) percent of all residential water use is wasted through leaky toilets. Check your toilet by putting food coloring in the toilet tank. If color appears in the bowl without flushing, this indicates a leak. Alternatively, we offer free toilet tabs so that you can check your toilet for leaks, available at PUD Headquarters (1230 Ruddell Road SE, Lacey, WA 98503). Our office is open 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Leaks could be costing you money! Check your home regularly for leaks and get them repaired as soon as possible.

Drinking Water - It's Worth Saving

Office of Drinking Water
1-800-521-0323

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/>



Field Crew At Work



Our Field Operations Team replaced a failed well pump at a Thurston County water system in February 2023. Pictured left is Kyle Pederson, Jason Choate, and Rick Sanchez hard at work. Thank you to our dedicated crew on this vital repair!



Project Help Fund Keeps the Water on For Struggling Families

For years, Thurston PUD has offered an assistance fund that helps low-income families keep water running in their homes. The Project Help Program allows Thurston PUD customers to contribute by making donations through their water bill. Donations go towards a family whose water is in jeopardy of being shut off. You can make a one-time donation or monthly donations.

If you are interested in donating to the Project Help Program, complete the authorization form below and mail it to our office with your bill payment. Your generosity is appreciated! If you have questions, please call our Customer Service Team at (360) 357-8783 or toll-free at (866) 357-8783.

I authorize Thurston PUD to bill my account \$ _____.

- One-time to be donated to the Project Help Fund
- Each month

This authorization shall remain in effect until PUD receives written notification from me to terminate this agreement. I understand that if my account becomes past due, this authorization becomes invalid.

Name _____

Service Address _____

Customer Account Number _____