



**Thurston
Public Utility District**

May 2009 Newsletter



Commissioner
Alan M. Corwin
District 2

Commissioner's Corner

News Bulletin: Even with the rainfall we enjoy (?) in the South Sound, there isn't an endless supply of potable water to meet all our needs. Just 0.3% of the world's water can be used for human consumption or for farming.

Most of the rainfall in Western Washington ends up as surface water in rivers, lakes or Puget Sound. All of the water you receive from Thurston PUD is groundwater. Unless we protect and recharge the aquifers upon which we depend, we will deplete our aquifers.

Growth, even carefully planned growth under the State's Growth Management Act, cannot proceed without adequate sources of potable water. We have two choices: find new sources of potable water or make better use of the sources we have.

Why not get water from desalination plants? We can't because desalination is an expensive process requiring a great deal of energy, most often from fossil fuels. Arab Emirates on the Persian Gulf can afford to operate desalination plants with cheap (for them) oil. We cannot. Until the technology improves, we cannot depend upon desalination to meet our needs for potable water.

There are many ways to conserve water, not just by watering our lawns only on alternate days or turning off the water when we brush our teeth. The US isn't on the cutting edge of technology to conserve water. Places like Israel, Namibia and Singapore are. For example, drip farming techniques used widely in Israel dramatically reduce the amount of water lost to evaporation.

It's time we looked into the future to plan now to avoid water shortages which could plague our children or grandchildren. We should swallow our national pride and urge our state and federal lawmakers to reach out to countries which can teach us how to better manage the water we have.



If you are filling a swimming pool.....

Call your local fire department to see if they will deliver water to fill your pool (some do). If they don't offer this service, please make sure you don't burden your water system. Fill your pool in the evening after peak demand & fill it slowly. Turn it off in time to let the system recover for your and your neighbor's showers in the morning.

Attention Landlords



If you would like to leave the water service at your rental home on between renters, there is a form that you are required to fill out and return to the PUD. This form will ensure that the water is left on and that the water service is put in the landlords name until you contact us the let us know a new renter has moved in. The form is available on our website at

www.thurstonpud.com/links.htm

or you may call the office and we will be happy to mail you the form.





What is the best way to wash my car?

At a car wash that recycles water and is connected to the sanitary sewer system.

Why shouldn't I wash my car at home? By washing your car in your driveway or on the street, the dirty rinse water often goes into a storm drain. The dirty car wash water contains soap and detergent, and residues from exhaust fumes, gasoline, motor oil, heavy metals, and road grime washed off the car. The dirty water rinsed off your car will likely make it into a nearby creek and/or Puget Sound.

What's so bad about a little bit of dirty car water going down the storm drain? Soap, detergent, and grime contain chemicals that are harmful to fish and other aquatic life. Even "biodegradable" and "low phosphate" soaps contain harmful chemicals and should NOT go down storm drains. A little bit of soap and grime from a lot of people becomes LOTS of soap and pollution.

Detergents in soap dissolve the grease and grime off cars, but when the detergents end up in creeks they dissolve the protective slippery mucous layer on fish and natural oils in the fish gills. Without the protective mucous layer, fish are more susceptible to bacterial diseases and parasites, and oxygen transfer in their gills is impaired. Just a tiny bit of detergent in the water can cause these problems for aquatic life.

The "grime" that gets rinsed off the car contains heavy metals, hydrocarbons, and other chemicals that are harmful to aquatic life.

How do commercial car washes keep Puget Sound clean? The soapy and dirty water at these businesses will be treated at the wastewater treatment plant just like the water you use inside your home and business.

For more information check out City of Olympia's website link

<http://www.olympiawa.gov/cityutilities/stormwater/education/cleancars.htm>

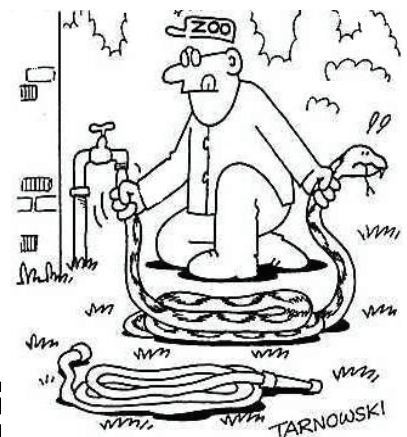
BACKFLOW

Here are three simple actions people can do that will make the public water system safer from Backflow Hazards:

1. Verify or install the correct type of backflow preventer on each hose fixture (\$8 - \$12 Hose Bibb Vacuum Breaker).
2. Make sure irrigation backflow prevention devices have had the required annual test by a certified person.
3. Make sure when filling swimming pools, spas, decorative pools and livestock watering troughs you have a one inch air gap between the hose and the water line.

We are making things easier for you to pay your water bill!

- Mail your payment.
- Pay in our office using cash, check, debit or credit card.
- Pay by phone or online (www.thurstonpud.com) using your credit card, debit card or electronic check.
- Drop your payment off at the drop box located outside our building. Checks only.
- Pay by direct debit (get the form on our website).



"You never know what people will connect to public water supply!"

<http://hydrodesignsinc.com/index.php/links/21-backflow-awareness.html>

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