



NEWSLETTER

Winter Water Conservation Saves You Money Year-Round:

Saving water now can mean saving money later. Because outdoor water use in the winter months is at a minimum, OLWS uses winter water usage to gauge the amount of wastewater your household sends down the drain to sewer treatment. A portion of your sanitary sewer bill is based on winter water consumption which is reviewed and reset each July. Now is the time to fix those leaks, set your shower timer, and work together as a family to conserve our precious water resources all while saving you money.



Freeze the Grease and Save Your Drain

In the winter, cold weather comfort foods can have more fats and oils in them. Remember to dispose of excess cooking fats, oils, and grease in the garbage — or scrape them into a can and freeze it. When the can is full, throw it in the trash. If you pour fats and oils down the drain, they cool quickly and slowly clog your pipes. Avoid a costly plumber visit by freezing your grease and saving your drain!

Prevent Winter Flooding: Clean up your gutters and curbsides regularly to help keep the storm drains clear. Do not blow leaves into the streets, instead compost them. Clackamas County provides street sweeping services in the OLWS District. Clackamas County also takes inquiries about sites that experience flooding and drainage problems.

If you are concerned about a site that floods regularly, contact Floodplain Assessment in Planning and Zoning at 503-742-4500.

For after-hours flooding services, call Clackamas County Non-Emergency Dispatch at (503) 655-8211.



BOARD BYLINE – Nancy Gibson, Board President:

Oak Lodge Water Services works behind the scenes every day, transporting water to your tap, collecting wastewater for treatment, and ensuring water quality. As part of our work, investing in infrastructure allows the District to provide safe drinking water and pollution controls for our local streams and rivers.

Infrastructure requires maintenance and upgrades which come from careful master planning, and small increases in rates go to make sure our water stays clean both as it comes to the tap and after it flows down the drain.

By consolidating the water, wastewater, and watershed protection services under one District, Oak Lodge Water Services has been able to slow rate increases and achieve cost savings by combining efforts. The Board has been looking closely at those cost savings, and will share more information on our website:

www.oaklodgewaterservices.org. For questions or comments, please call (503) 654-7765.

OLWS BOARD MEETINGS:

All Board Meetings held at:

Oak Lodge Water Services
Administration Building
14496 SE River Rd.,
Oak Grove, OR 97267

*** NOVEMBER 20 at 6 p.m.**

*** DECEMBER 18 at 6 p.m.**

The public is welcome!

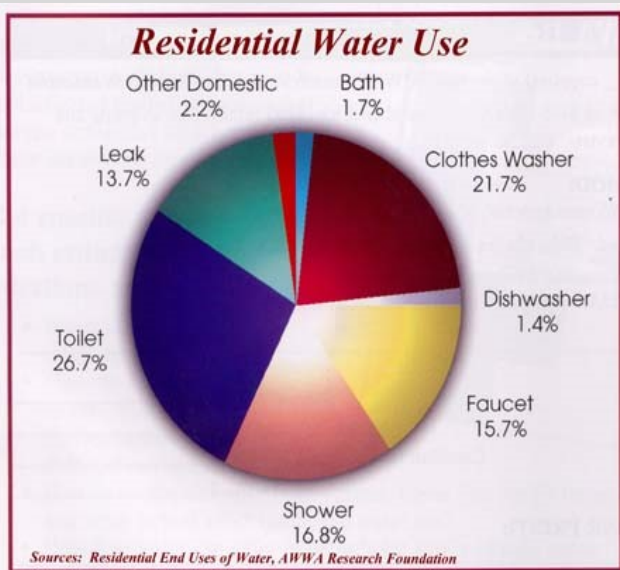
Conservation Tips presented by Clackamas River Water Providers

- **Take Stock Of Your Water Usage Habits**

Even if you're careful about your water usage in the home, chances are there are important steps you're not taking and factors that you're not considering. As the air begins to cool, for example, you may enjoy taking a few extra minutes in a hot shower. Standard shower heads use more than two gallons of water a minute. Even a small amount of extra shower time every day adds up to large water waste. Consider changing your old shower head to a newer 1-1.5 gallons per minute (GPM) low flow shower head. You can still enjoy that shower without wasting water.

- **Water Plants Less**

Longer nights, cooler temperatures, and increased rainfall means outdoor plants and lawns require much less water. Purchase an EPA Watersense certified smart controller or rain sensor switch for your existing controller to stop your irrigation system from coming on when it isn't necessary. Visit our website for rebate information on EPA Watersense certified smart controllers and rain sensors. Don't forget to winterize your irrigation system. Make sure to turn off and drain your irrigation by October 31st to prevent the pipes from freezing.



- **Install Water Efficient Faucets Aerators**

While not running water needlessly, such as letting the faucet flow when brushing your teeth, or scrubbing dishes after a large holiday celebration many households can further decrease their water use by installing high efficiency (1-1.5 GPM) faucet aerators in the kitchen and in the bathroom.

- **Upgrade Your Toilets**

Toilets are the number one water waster in the home, replacing your old toilet with a new EPA certified High Efficiency Toilet (HET) is an excellent way to reduce unnecessary water use. If you're unable to replace your toilets, you can use toilet tank banks, or fill cycle diverters to reduce the amount of water used per flush. Visit our website for rebate information on EPA certified High Efficiency Toilets.

- **Check Behind the Scenes**

Check all faucets and, wherever possible, pipes for leaks. A single drip may seem insignificant, but that volume adds up – a single dripping faucet can waste more than 3,000 gallons of water a year. To check for leaks in hidden pipes, monitor your water meter for an hour or two when **no water is being used**, if the meter dial is moving, there is a leak.

These tips are a good place to start, but they are just that, starting places. There are many ways to conserve water at home, both indoors and outdoors. To receive an indoor water audit kit, water saving devices such as faucet aerators and shower heads, and information about the Clackamas River Water Providers Rebate Program, visit their website at www.clackamasproviders.org or call us at 503-723-3511.

WINTER EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS – Now that you have 14 gallons of water per person and food stored for emergencies, remember to update supplies for winter.

Have extra batteries for radios and flashlights. Create an emergency supply kit for your car. Include an ice scraper, jumper cables, phone charger, sandbags, a flashlight, warm clothes and hats, blankets, bottled water, and non-perishable snacks. Keep the gas tank full. Visit www.cdc.gov/disasters/winter for more information.

