



“The Olympic View”

2014

Olympic View Water & Sewer District's Bi-Annual Newsletter

New Water Production Well for the District

The District has begun the drilling of a test well with the possibility of a new production well being completed. The water produced by the new well will help offset the amount of water the District purchases from SPU. OVWSD has had a water right, through the Department of Ecology, since early 1990's. A possible site for a new well was purchased in 2013 and, if successful, the water would be treated and distributed through the system by 2016.

State Auditors' Report

The District recently completed its required bi-annual State Audit. The state auditor reports, “the District’s internal controls were adequate to safeguard public assets. The District also complied with state laws and regulations and its own policies and procedures”.

In addition to the Financial Statement Audit, an accountability audit was performed. The Accountability Audit Report indicated that the State Auditor’s office has reported no findings in the last 19 years. The District is very proud of this year’s report and continues to operate at the highest standard.

Lead and Copper Testing Completed in the District

The drinking water that is supplied to our customers’ homes does not have lead and copper in it. The lead in water usually comes from the solder used in the plumbing of older houses. Lead can leach into the water, based on the water’s pH level. Lead is a common metal found throughout the environment in lead based paint, air, soil, household dust, food and water. Lead can pose a significant risk to your health if too much of it enters your body.

Why Does OVWSD Test Older Homes for Lead and Copper?

In 1991 the EPA published regulations on lead and copper known as the Lead and Copper Rule. This rule established an action level of 15 ppb (parts per billion) for lead and 1.3 ppm (parts per million) for copper. The rule requires water systems to monitor for lead and copper at the customer’s end.

Some homes built in the 70’s and early 80’s were built with copper piping and tin-lead solder and can have lead levels above the EPA safe limits. The use of tin-lead solder was banned in 1985. Some homes are in the “high risk” category if they were built or re-plumbed prior to 1985.

OVWSD tests for lead and copper in a sampling of homes built during this era every three years, in accordance with the Environment Protection Act and Washington Department of Health rules. The District collected 30 water samples from homes in the “high risk” category this year and had them tested for lead and copper. Samples from OVWSD testing consistently are below the 95 percentile or 15 ppb.

If you have a home built in the 70s and 80s there are steps you can take to reduce exposure to leads in drinking water:

- Always draw drinking water and cooking water from the cold water tap.
- Do not make baby formula with water from the hot tap.
- If water has been standing in your pipes for over six hours, the first time you turn on the faucet, run it for 15 -30 seconds. This should flush out any lead that has leached from the pipes into your water.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact our Water Quality Specialist at 425-774-7769.

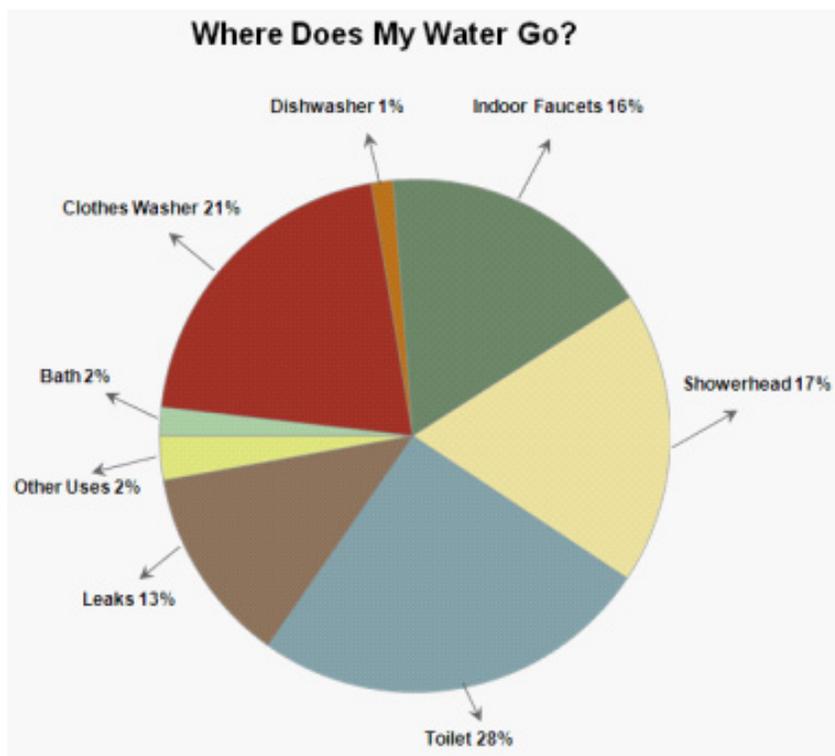
How Much Water Do You Use?

An average single-family household in the Saving Water Partnership service territory uses 4,413 gallons a month in the winter and 6,208 gallons a month in the summer. (the District bills in ccf (100 cubic feet), 748 gallons = 1 ccf) How do you compare?

About 70% of water used in American homes is used indoors. Understanding where water is used inside your home can help you save water and money.

Do you know where the water goes in your home? This water use chart shows you where water is used in most homes.

Olympic View is a member of Saving Water Partnership, a group of 18 wholesale purveyors in the Puget Sound Region. Visit www.savingwater.org for advice on saving water for each appliance or fixture and other helpful information.



Fall/Winter is Here!

PLANTING - Fall is the best time of year for planting! Cooler temperatures and fall rains provide optimal conditions. Thanks to our mild temperatures, you can safely plant anytime the ground is not frozen! Planting now will help plants establish their roots before next year's dry season. Selecting the right plants for your site will lead to a healthy and beautiful garden, and easier maintenance with fewer resources needed. Happy planting!

MULCH - Fall is an excellent time to replenish the mulch on the surface of your garden beds. After the weather cools and fall rains begin, do your fall clean-up and weeding, and add mulch to maintain a nice thick blanket of compost or wood chip mulch 2 to 3 inches thick. Arborist wood chips are excellent for garden beds with woody plants and trees. Compost or a combination of compost and other organic products may be best around perennials.

Easy Payment Options Now Available

For those customers who travel, are "snowbirds" or simply forget about the water/sewer bill; Olympic View now offers Automatic Cash Handling or ACH payments. With this payment feature, you will still receive a paper bill from Olympic View, but the payment will automatically be taken out of your checking or savings account on the 10th of your billing month. This ensures that if you have any issues with your bill, you have enough time to contact the office and discuss them. In conjunction with the ACH payments, an option of e-bills (electronic bills) is now available. Customers may opt for the e-bill alone or have both the e-bill sent and a paper copy of the bi-monthly statement mailed to them.

In addition to these options, the District is now accepting Visa/MasterCard and Discover Card. There is a \$3.50 convenience fee to use credit cards up to \$500. If you are interested in utilizing any of these features, please contact the office at (425) 774-7769 to receive the proper form and instructions.

District Contact Information

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