

ROCKWOOD WATER LINES

THE ROCKWOOD WATER PEOPLE'S UTILITY DISTRICT **NEWSLETTER** 2018 ISSUE 3

Outdoor Water Conservation Tips

You don't need to be a master gardener to have a water efficient garden. Keep these five basic water wise tips in mind.

1. **Know when to water.** Water early in the morning (before 10 a.m.) or later in the evening (after 6 p.m.) when temperatures are cooler and evaporation is minimized.
2. **Know how much to water.** The amount of water needed each week changes with the weather. Sign up to receive the Weekly Watering Number for information on how much to water every week between April and September at <https://www.conserveh2o.org/weekly-watering-number>. Different plants have different water needs, as well. Learn about plants that require less water and start incorporating them into your landscape.
3. **Water thoroughly, and less frequently-** to develop a more robust root system. Plants that have larger root systems are more effective at accessing water and need to be watered less frequently. Many established landscapes and lawns need to be watered one or two times per week. Newer plantings, vegetables, and potted plants may need more frequent watering. Creating a watering schedule will help ensure that your plants get the right amount of water each week.
4. **Prevent runoff** -by applying only the amount of water your soil can absorb. Much of the soil in our area is clay which means it holds onto moisture, but takes longer to absorb. If puddling occurs when you water, try breaking one long watering session into several shorter ones. For example, instead of watering for 20 consecutive minutes, run sprinklers in four 5-minute sessions. This will allow water to soak into the soil and minimizes runoff.
5. **Add compost or mulch to your soil** -to help it absorb and store water. Organic mulches (e.g. aged manure, bark chips, wood chips) cover and cool the soil, minimizing evaporation, soil erosion, and weed growth. Composted food scraps and plant debris from your garden (e.g. grass clippings, fall leaves) provide nutrients for your plants and increase the water-holding capabilities of your soil. Both are important for the health and well-being of your plants and can also reduce your water usage.



With these easy steps, you will feel like a water-saving expert in no time.

CHANGES COMING TO OUR ONLINE BILL PAY

Utility ePay (Alliant) has discontinued their online bill pay service. Beginning July 1, the District will be using Point & Pay. You can pay your bill by visiting our website at www.rwpud.org, clicking on the icon (example shown to the right), and you will be directed to our new service. The new free Point & Pay service will display our logo, so you can be sure you are paying your bill at the right place. Please consider deleting your web browser bookmarks directing you to Alliant to save confusion. If you have any questions, please call us or email customerservice@rwpud.org.



Be aware when paying your bill

There is an on-line bill pay website that appears to be affiliated with Rockwood Water PUD, but it is not. Doxo.com is a third-party website that allows people to pay their Utility bills via their site. However, doxo.com charges extra fees, and we cannot control when your payment is received, possibly resulting in a late payment or even disconnection due to non-payment. To make sure you're paying us directly, visit our website, www.rwpud.org.

WARNING

Getting Drinking Water from Your Water Heater

A typical home water heater can provide between 30 and 80 gallons of clean drinking water during a disaster.

1. **Turn off the electricity or gas to the water heater.** Turn off the circuit breaker for electric water heaters or close the gas valve for natural gas and propane types.
2. **Preserve the cleanliness of the water** in the tank by closing the supply valve to the tank.
3. **Find the valve at the bottom of the tank for draining.** This is where your clean drinking water will come from.
4. **Turn on the hot water from any tap in the house.** In order for water to be drained from the tank, you must allow air to get into it.
5. **Remove any sediment that has collected at the bottom of the water heater.** If you have sediment in the drinking water let it stand for a period of time to let it settle to the bottom of container.

If you are interested in further information we have a brochure at the office for your convenience.



One of the most important things that you can do to prepare for an emergency is to have an emergency kit that includes water. People can survive for weeks without food, but only a few days without water, which is why water is such a key element to any well-stocked emergency kit.

Here in the Pacific Northwest, your kit should be able to sustain your entire household (pets too!) for 14 days. This is because experts predict that the region is over-

due for a major earthquake that will severely damage water systems and other infrastructure. When this occurs, it will probably take about two weeks for emergency supplies to reach the greater Portland metro area, and you will need to rely on your own resources until help arrives. The general rule is to include one gallon of water per person per day in your emergency kit. That assumes about half a gallon for drinking and another half-gallon to meet sanitation and food preparation needs. You may need to include more water in your kit if your family includes people with special needs (e.g. pregnant women or infants) or if you have pets.

Get Your Kit Together!

**INCLUDE
WATER**
IN YOUR EMERGENCY KIT



www.regionalh2o.org

Number of people	7 days	14 days
1	7 gallons	14 gallons
2	14 gallons	28 gallons
3	21 gallons	42 gallons
4	28 gallons	56 gallons
5	35 gallons	70 gallons
6	42 gallons	84 gallons

More information about how to correctly store water and be prepared in case of an emergency can be found at the Regional Water Providers Consortium's website. We also have a flyer with useful tips at the office.

Payment Assistance

The District offers bill payment assistance to qualifying low-income customers. At this time, the financial assistance is a one-time crisis assistance payment of \$132.00 **OR** a bi-monthly discount of \$22.00 on water bills for one year (six bills). To find out if you meet our Customer Assistance Program income guidelines, contact Human Solutions, Inc., 503-548-0217. Their offices are located at: Rockwood Office: 124 NE 181st Ave. Portland Office: 12350 SE Powell Blvd.

