

Board Byline

By Paul Gornick, Board President

Many wipes, even ones that are labeled “flushable” clog sewer lines, increase utility maintenance, and create environmental concerns through backups in residences and/or our wastewater systems.

The Oak Lodge Water Services District (District) reminds the public that during the COVID-19 crisis and every day, the only things okay to flush down the toilet are the 3 P’s: pee, poo, and toilet paper. Anything else can wreak havoc on the District’s sewer system. By remembering the 3 P’s, we can all make a huge difference and keep the District’s sewer system flowing smoothly.

Visit us on Facebook or Twitter to see the tire-sized blockage caused by paper shop towels, wipes, and rags at the Water Reclamation Facility in Oak Grove, OR, that was removed on January 26, 2021. Toilet paper is designed to break down and dissolve. All other paper products are made of sturdy, non-woven fibers that do not break down like toilet paper and cause costly impacts to our wastewater systems, environment, and sewer backups at residences.

If you experience a clogged pipe in your home, call a plumber. If you experience or see a sewer overflow, call the District at (503) 654-7765.

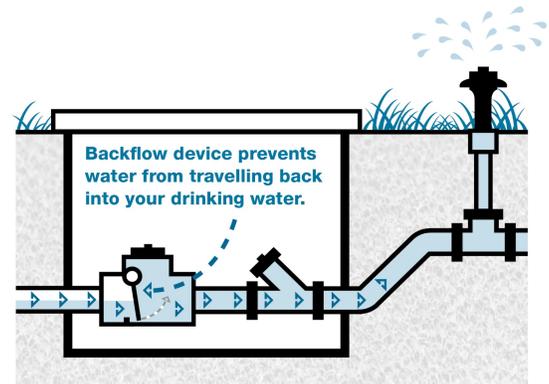
You’re invited to attend Virtual District Board Meetings

At this time, Board meetings are being held online. Learn how to call in at oaklodgewaterservices.org or email info@olwsd.org for assistance.

March 16 at 6 p.m. | April 20 at 6 p.m.



Follow us @OakLodgeWater for news from the District.



Time to Test your Backflow Device

For the health and safety of your family and our community — test your backflow this spring. Backflow devices protect your home’s potable plumbing system by blocking pollutants from entering your drinking water.

Pollutants from the outdoor system can include pet waste, pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers. Not everyone has or needs a backflow device. Some reasons why you may need a backflow device include irrigation systems, swimming pools, hot tubs, boiler systems, or being on a well.

The Oregon Health Authority and the District require annual backflow/cross-connection testing to maintain clean, safe drinking water.

The District offers discounts and assistance for regular backflow testing. Visit the Backflow Testing webpage or call (503) 654-7765 with questions.

District Commitments



Protect public health



Provide excellent customer service



Make smart investments and work to keep rates affordable



Keep our streams and rivers clean

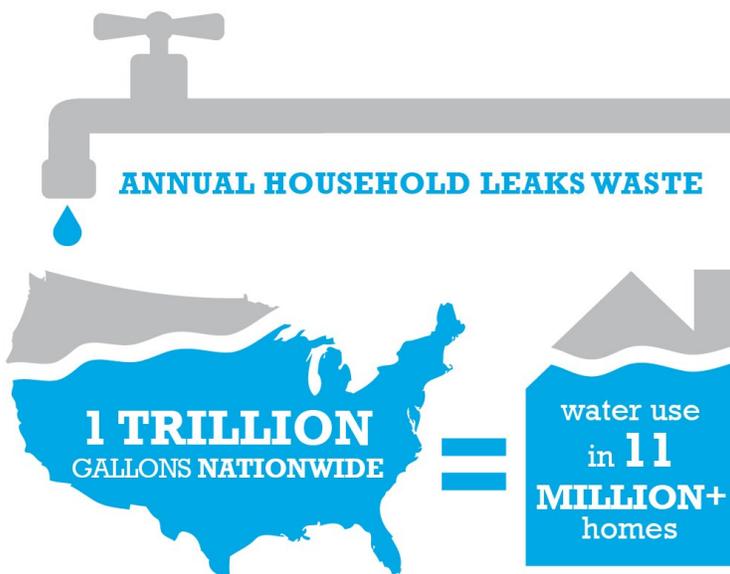
Leaks Can Run, But They Can't Hide

Are you ready to chase down leaks? Household leaks can waste nearly 1 trillion gallons of water annually nationwide, so each year we hunt down the drips during Fix a Leak Week.

Mark your calendars for the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) annual Fix a Leak Week, March 15-21 — but remember you can find and fix leaks inside and outside your home all year long, which can save valuable water and money.

Here are some tips for finding leaks:

- Check your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter changes at all, you probably have a leak.
- Identify toilet leaks by placing a drop of food coloring in the toilet tank. If any color shows up in the bowl after 10 minutes, you have a leak (be sure to flush immediately after the experiment to avoid staining the tank).
- Examine faucet gaskets and pipe fittings for any water on the outside of the pipe to check for surface leaks.



Protecting Our Watershed

We all play a role in preserving our vital drinking water resources. Whether you are a resident, business owner, employee or farmer, you can make a difference. Protecting and conserving our drinking water source plays a key role in making the best overall use of the precious resource we share. Each time it rains or snows, pollutants wash off the land and flow untreated into nearby surface and groundwater sources. Human activities such as construction, timber harvest, livestock management, fertilizer and pesticide use, if not performed responsibly, can contribute to degraded water quality.

What can you do?

- Install a raingarden to allow water from your property to filter into the ground.
- Reduce or eliminate your pesticide and fertilizer use to prevent chemical runoff.
- Restore streamside and riparian areas by planting native trees and shrubs.
- Properly dispose of, or recycle, motor oil, antifreeze, paint, solvents and other toxic materials.

For more information about watershed protection, source water assessment, and free tools and devices for water conservation, visit the Clackamas River Water Providers at clackamasproviders.org.

Emergency Contact Information

Our team is available 24 hours a day at (503) 654-7765. If you see water gushing up out of either the street, ground, or from a manhole, please call us. Cold weather can cause breaks in our water and sewer mains and pipes. Use the same number if you notice sewer spills or if you see someone illegally dumping into a storm drain.