



# NEWSLETTER

## Have you tested your backflow device this year?

It is springtime, and time to schedule a test of your backflow device. OLWS offers discounts for backflow testing recommended in the spring. Please visit: [www.oaklodgewaterservices.org](http://www.oaklodgewaterservices.org) and search "Backflow" to learn of our current discounts, or call (503) 654-7765 with questions. As the front line of protection for your home's potable plumbing system, backflow devices make sure pollutants such as pet waste, pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers do not enter your home's system.

Is there a cross connection between the drinking water system and a non-potable source from your house or property? The yard irrigation system is the most common, but there are many other types of hazards out there that people should be concerned about. To maintain safe drinking water, OLWS and the Oregon Health Authority require annual backflow and cross-connection testing to maintain the health and safety of our drinking water, our families, and our community.



### MARCH 22, 2019 IS WORLD WATER DAY

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 6 is clear: "Water for all by 2030. Whoever you are, wherever you are, water is your human right." For more information about this effort visit: [www.worldwaterday.org](http://www.worldwaterday.org)

*Water conservation is the new normal. Do your water habits keep money in your pocket?*

#### **BOARD BYLINE – Susan Keil, Board President:**

Join us for an Emergency Water Distribution Exercise on Saturday April 13, 2019 from 11 a.m.–1 p.m., at the Concord School in Oak Grove. Free emergency preparedness materials and special giveaways!

Partners Oak Lodge Water Services, the Clackamas Fire District #1, and the Oak Lodge Community Emergency Response Team (OLCERT) will conduct an emergency preparedness exercise testing distribution of potable water. Community members are invited to BRING A CLEAN 1-5 GALLON CONTAINER and drive through the exercise, where staff will fill containers and distribute emergency preparedness materials. Please visit [www.oaklodgewaterservices.org](http://www.oaklodgewaterservices.org) for more information.

#### **OLWS BOARD MEETINGS:**

All Board Meetings held at:

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

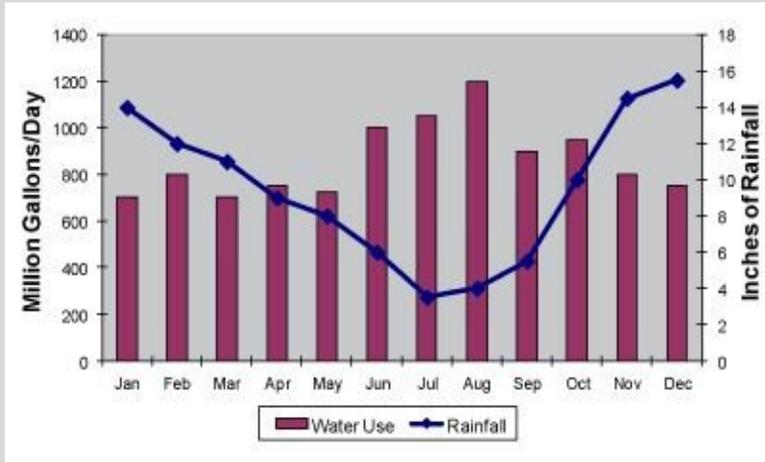
\* **MARCH 19 at 6 p.m.**

\* **APRIL 16 at 6 p.m.**

*The public is welcome!*

# Indoor Winter Water Conservation – from the Clackamas River Water Providers

Is water conservation only a summer concern? While it's true our water usage spikes during the warmer months, did you know that daily activities like flushing toilets, showering, and washing clothes and dishes account for most of the average household water use? Clackamas River Water Providers (CRWP) recommends the following ways to make your indoor water habits more efficient:



## BATHROOM

- Turn off the water while you shave or brush your teeth.
- Time your shower to keep it under 5 minutes.
- Test your toilet for leaks.
- Contact the CRWP for toilet rebate information.

## LAUNDRY ROOM

- Shop for a new clothes washing machine with an Energy Star certification and receive a CRWP rebate of \$75.
- When doing laundry, lower the water level to the size of the load of clothes.

- Insulate hot water pipes so you do not have to run as much water to get hot water to the faucet.

## KITCHEN

- Run your dishwasher only when it is full.
- When washing dishes by hand, don't let the water run—use a wash basin in the sink and then rinse.
- Use the garbage disposal sparingly. Instead throw fruit and vegetable scraps into your compost.
- Keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator instead of running the tap for cold drinks.

For more water saving tips, to request a free indoor water audit kit, or for more information on our water conservation rebates, visit the CRWP website at <http://www.clackamasproviders.org/water-conservation/>.

## Fix a Leak Week: March 18-24th, 2019

The average household's leaks can account for nearly 10,000 gallons of water wasted every year. Common types of leaks found in the home are worn toilet flappers, dripping faucets, and other leaking valves. These types of leaks are often easy to fix, requiring only a few tools and hardware that can pay for themselves in water savings. Fixing easily corrected household water leaks can save homeowners about 10 percent on their water bills.

### Four tips to check for leaks in your home:

- Take a look at your water usage during a colder month, such as January or February. If a family of four exceeds 12,000 gallons per month, there are serious 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.
- Ask at OLWS for leak detection tablets to identify toilet leaks. If any color shows up in the bowl after 10 minutes, you have a leak.
- Examine faucet gaskets and pipe fittings for any water on the outside of the pipe to check for surface leaks. Visit the Regional Water Providers Consortium to see a [video on finding leaks](https://www.conserveh2o.org/indoor-leak-detection-repair): <https://www.conserveh2o.org/indoor-leak-detection-repair>.



**Remember that no matter the month, you can find and fix leaks inside and outside your home to save valuable water and money all year long.**