



BOARD BYLINE – Conserve Winter Water, Benefit from Savings All Year
 Conserving winter water between November and February can mean saving money later. Did you know that a portion of your sanitary sewer bill is based on consumption? Because outdoor water use in the winter months is at a minimum, OLWS uses winter water usage between November and February to gauge the amount of wastewater your household sends down the drain for sewer treatment. Then, when your bill is reviewed and reset each summer we calculate using that winter average consumption.

Now is the time to fix those leaks, set up your shower timer, and work together as a family to conserve our precious water resources all while saving you money in the year to come. Please contact OLWS with questions and comments at (503) 654-7765.

– Susan Keil, Board President

You are invited to attend:
OLWS BOARD MEETINGS!

All Board Meetings held at:

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

* JANUARY 21 at 6 p.m.

* FEBRUARY 18 at 6 p.m.

NEED A FEW IDEAS FOR INDOOR WINTER WATER CONSERVATION?

It only takes about 21 days of practice to form a habit. So instead of wondering about how to bring water use down in winter, choose one or two of the following tips and turn them into a money saving habit.

BATHROOM • Turn off the water while you shave or brush your teeth. • Time your shower to keep it under 5 minutes. **LAUNDRY ROOM** • When doing laundry, lower the water level to the size of the load of clothes. **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 indoor/outdoor water conservation information and tools including a free **Home Water Audit Kit**, call the Clackamas River Water Providers at 503-732-3511 or visit their website at www.clackamasproviders.org.

IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY, PROTECT YOUR HOME FOR WINTER: Close crawl spaces and vents; turn off and drain outdoor irrigation systems; protect outside pipes and faucets; open cupboard doors beneath your sinks; know how to shut off your water; wrap exposed pipes with insulation or heat tape; keep water moving by allowing a small trickle of water to run; never turn off the heat when you leave home—set to 55-60° F. **If your pipes do freeze:** shut off water immediately; thaw pipes with warm air; be careful when turning water back on; and check joints and pipes for cracks or leaks caused by freezing.

— This information provided in partnership with the Clackamas River Water Providers

Stormwater 101

Did you know? Runoff from storms does not go into the wastewater treatment facility – it drains directly into local creeks and rivers. For Oak Lodge that means into your nearest ditch, backyard creek and finally the Willamette River.



Runoff in urban and suburban areas includes pollutants from roadways, driveways, cars and yards.

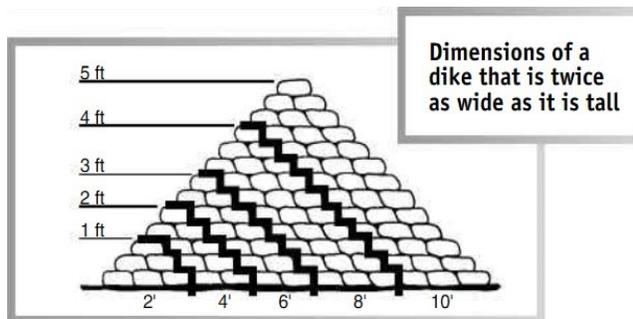
You can expect contaminants such as fertilizer, pesticides/herbicides, heavy metals from brake pads, microplastics from tires, oil and grease, bacteria/viruses from pet waste, sediment from yard projects, construction waste, and trash.

What are regulators doing to support water quality and reduce stormwater pollution? Programs may include: information sharing (like this article!), leaf pickup, storm drain cleaning, street sweeping, pet waste bags and info kiosks, and EcoBiz certification, which helps businesses meet high standards to reduce toxics, prevent pollution, and protect the environment.

You can help too—make sure your car is maintained properly and does not leak or drip oil; wash your car at a carwash or on grass with eco-friendly products; fertilize your yard with the appropriate amount of product; work to pull some weeds by hand; contain landscaping erosion; and pick up pet waste.

SANDBAGS are available first come, first served from Clackamas Fire District #1 – Station 4 located at 6600 SE Lake Road, Milwaukie, OR 97222. Sandbags are for residential use only. All sites are self-service. Bring your own shovel.

During flooding events, call ahead to ensure sandbag availability. Call: 503-742-2600.



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 Oak Lodge Water Services District.
- Clackamas County also takes inquiries about sites that experience flooding and drainage problems.
- **For after-hours flooding services, call Clackamas County Non-Emergency Dispatch at (503) 655-8211.**

OAK LODGE WATER SERVICES EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION:

Please call Oak Lodge 24 hours a day at (503) 654-7765 if you see water gushing up out of either the street, ground, or from a manhole. 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. *Thank you!*