

DID YOU KNOW?

How heavy is water?

One US gallon of water weighs about 8.3 pounds. If you use 100 gallons of water in your home each day (a reasonable amount for two people), you are using more than 830 pounds of manufactured product each day, about 150 tons each year.



Water is so heavy that on a tonnage production basis the water supply industry is by far the largest in the United States and Canada. In the United States, it produces in 16 hours as great a tonnage as the output of the oil industry in a year, in a single day as much tonnage as the steel industry does in an entire year, and in a week a tonnage equal to the yearly output of all the bituminous coal producers—truly a monumental daily quantity of product.

SOURCE: Plain Talk About Drinking Water, AWWA.

Rainwater harvesting

Rain barrels are a low tech, low maintenance way to conserve water. The average rainfall of one inch within a 24-hour period can produce more than 700 gallons of water that runs off the roof of a typical house.



Learn how you can get started, visit SkagitPUD.org or call (360) 424-7104.

YOUR WATER RATES AT WORK

System Housekeeping

FLUSHING PROGRAM KEEPS CLEAN WATER FLOWING

What is flushing?

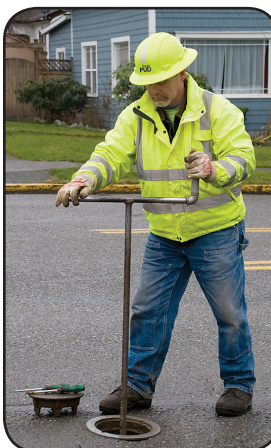
As part of Skagit PUD's ongoing maintenance and water quality efforts, the PUD conducts a water line flushing program throughout its 600 mile water system. Flushing is a process that rapidly removes sediment from the PUD's water piping system, similar to the process of flushing a car's radiator. Flushing uses water force to scour out materials that accumulate in pipes. Water pipes are usually flushed by opening fire hydrants, where the discharged water flows off the streets the same as rainwater. The water flow is measured and the chlorine in the water is neutralized.



Water quality worker Ryan Anderson checks for sediment in a water line as part of Skagit PUD's ongoing flushing program.

Why are you flushing?

Imagine driving down the road at less than 1½ miles per hour. That's about the rate that water moves through underground pipes. This slow movement causes sediment, such as rust and mineral particles, to build up over time and accumulate along the pipe's bottom. A buildup of harmless



PUD's Joe Dralle tests a water valve while conducting routine line flushing.

microorganisms can also coat the pipe's inner surface. If left unchecked, the materials can restrict water flow in the pipes and contribute to the pipe corroding.

Rapid water pressure changes, such as water main breaks and the use of fire hydrants, can stir up the sediment and dislodge deposits lining the pipe, resulting in "dirty water" appearance.

Periodically flushing water pipes removes the material buildup, maintains infrastructure, and assures consistent, good quality water.

Isn't flushing a waste of water?

Although it may appear to waste water, this process is part of routine maintenance necessary to maintain the integrity of the water system and to continue to deliver the highest quality water possible to our

Flushing > [SEE BACK PAGE](#)

Beat the Leak: Check. Twist. Replace.

Drip. Drip. Drip. That sound, according to the US Environmental Protection Agency, adds up to more than 10,000 gallons of water wasted in the average home each year due to easy-to-fix leaks. That's enough water each year to fill a backyard swimming pool.

Nationwide, household leaks add up to more than one trillion gallons lost each year.

You can start saving water today with three simple steps: check, twist, replace.

Check your home for leaks. You can detect silent toilet leaks, a common water-wasting culprit, by adding food coloring to the toilet tank and waiting 10 minutes before flushing. If color appears in the bowl, your toilet has a leak.

Twist and tighten fixture connections with a wrench or apply pipe tape to ensure that fixture connections are

sealed tight. If you can't stop those drops yourself, contact a plumbing professional. For additional savings, twist aerators onto bathroom faucets to use 30 percent less water without noticing a difference in flow.

Replace the fixture. If you just can't nip that drip, it may be time to replace the fixture. Look for the EPA's WaterSense label, which indicates that a fixture uses at least 20 percent less water and was independently certified to perform as well as or better than standard models.

For example, replacing your home's old, inefficient showerheads with WaterSense labeled models lets you shower with power while shrinking your household's water footprint by 2,300 gallons annually and saving enough energy to run a television all year long.



Flushing: Keeping Clean Water Flowing

> CONTINUED FROM FRONT

customers.

Skagit PUD is committed to water use efficiency and good resource management practices. The flushing program is monitored to ensure that the least amount of water is used. The PUD continually analyzes system-wide performance standards to minimize water use, including on-going efforts to identify and repair leaks.

How will this affect me?

In advance of crews being in your neighborhood, Skagit PUD contacts customers via door tag notification. Residential flushing is generally conducted

between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., Monday through Friday. For businesses and medical services, crews attempt to coordinate times to ensure the least degree of impact. At each location, water meters are turned off to help prevent dislodged material getting into customer lines. This will result in a disruption of your water service during the flushing process. For a few minutes following flushing, some sediment might get into your home's plumbing. If this happens, please be patient and allow your cold water to run for a few minutes at full velocity. During this time, you should avoid using hot water to prevent sediment accumulation in your hot water tank.

your water in NUMBERS

28 Operating PUDs in Washington; 23 PUDs provide electricity, 19 provide water or water and wastewater services, and 13 offer wholesale broadband telecommunications.

615 Miles of water pipeline Skagit PUD maintains in its distribution system.

3 Publicly elected Skagit PUD commissioners. The commissioners are elected by the community and serve six-year terms on a nonpartisan basis.

seventy-five

YEARS IN EXISTENCE. ON NOVEMBER 3, 1936, PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 OF SKAGIT COUNTY WAS FORMED BY VOTERS.

14,600

Gallons of water consumed in a lifetime by the average person who intakes eight cups of water per day and lives to age 80.

6 Customer service and billing representatives at Skagit PUD available to assist you with your account. Overall, the district employees 73 people to serve the 65,000 residents in our service area.

1.45 billion

Gallons of water that can be impounded at Judy Reservoir. Water diverted from four creeks and the Skagit River are used to fill the reservoir.