

DID YOU KNOW?

What's Inside Your Box?

In residential areas, your water meter is usually, but not always, located between the sidewalk and the street, in your front yard area, or in the sidewalk.

The water meter box serves two functions. It allows both you and Skagit PUD to easily access the water meter and the shut-off valve. It also serves to protect the water meter.

In the last few years, Skagit PUD has replaced all of its manual-read water meters with an automatic meter reading (AMR) system. The AMR mobile system has a transmitter located at each meter that transmits water usage readings to a radio receiver when it is within range of the transmitted signal. When a meter technician drives within signal range, customer usage data is collected and then uploaded to our billing system. This method enables the PUD to perform the task of reading meters in a more efficient and cost-effective manner.

For ease of access, please remember to:

- Keep items off of the meter box such as trash cans, potted plants, vehicles and debris.
- Trim the grass around the meter box.
- Keep shrubbery and other landscaping from obstructing clear access to the meter box.



Saving Water is Good Business

Saving water at work can sometimes be difficult. It is much easier to save water at home by taking shorter showers, adjusting the sprinklers or buying an ultra low-flow toilet. But, there are always opportunities to save this precious resource which will also help the company save water.

Here are some simple things every employee can do:

- Use a broom, whenever possible, to clean the walkways and parking areas around your business.
- Report or repair drips, leaking toilets or other leaking water fixtures.
- Do not let the water faucet run unnecessarily.
- Be conscientious when washing your coffee mug/dishes—use a personalized mug and give it a quick rinse.
- Report broken sprinkler heads or excessive wet spots to management.
- Do not use the toilet for a trash can.



What's Your Water IQ?

The average person unknowingly wastes up to 30 gallons of water every day. And since usable water is a limited resource, 36 states could be facing water shortage problems by 2013 says the Environmental Protection Agency. How well do you understand your own water usage? Do you know how to best save water in your home? Test your knowledge with the following quiz, and find out if you are a waterwise **NOVICE, EXPERT, or GENIUS!**

1. When is the best time of day to water your lawn?

- A. Early morning or late evening
- B. In the afternoon
- C. All day long



Answer: A. Your lawn should only be watered in the early morning or late evening when it is cooler. Watering the yard when it is really hot outside causes the water to evaporate before the plants have time to drink it.

2. High-efficiency washing machines save about how much water per load compared to traditional models?

- A. 2-5 gallons
- B. 7-10 gallons
- C. 11-13 gallons
- D. 14 gallons or more

Answer: D. High-efficiency washing machines use less than 27 gallons of water per load, compared to traditional models that use an average of 41 gallons. To achieve even greater savings, adjust water levels in the washing machine to match the size of the load.

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What's Your Water IQ?

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3. How much water does a family of four use every day?

- A. 50 gallons
- B. 100 gallons
- C. 250 gallons
- D. 400 gallons



Answer: D. How can a small family use so much water? It may seem hard to believe, but the average person uses 100 gallons of water each day—that is enough to fill 1,600 drinking glasses! There are many things you can do to save water.

4. Washing the dishes? Which may use less water?

- A. Washing dishes under a running tap
- B. Washing dishes in a fully loaded dishwasher

Answer: B. To waste the least amount of water in the kitchen, use your dishwasher only when it is filled all of the way with dirty dishes. You could also fill the sink with water instead of running the tap.

5. How much water can you save per day by turning off the tap while brushing your teeth in the morning and at bedtime?



- A. Up to 2 gallons
- B. Up to 4 gallons
- C. Up to 8 gallons
- D. Up to 6 gallons

Answer: C. The average bathroom faucet flows at a rate of two gallons per minute; by simply turning the tap off, you can save more than 100 gallons of water per person each month.

6. Which of the following uses less water?

- A. Taking a five minute shower
- B. Taking a bath



Answer: A. It takes 40 to 60 gallons of water to fill a tub but only 10 to 25 gallons for a five minute shower. If you do take a bath, put the stopper in the drain right away and change the temperature as you fill the tub.

7. Which of these everyday objects is a water-saving tool?

- A. A bucket
- B. A clock
- C. A broom
- D. All of the above

Answer: D. Put a **bucket** under the tap while you make the water the right temperature. The water you collect can be used to water plants. Use a **clock** to keep your showers under five minutes. Use a **broom** instead of the hose to clean your driveway or sidewalk.

8. Which of these activities wastes the MOST water per day in the average home?

- A. Running the tap while washing dishes
- B. Using a garbage disposal
- C. A leaky toilet
- D. Long showers

Answer: C. A leaky toilet can waste about 200 gallons of water every day! Test your toilets for leaks by placing a drop of food coloring in the tank and if the color shows in the bowl for flushing, you have a leak.



Explore the Skagit watershed with Letterbox Trail

It is Skagit Watershed Letterbox Trail time again, starting on **June 24**. Skagit PUD is joining with area environmental organizations and groups to hide “letterboxes” up and down the Skagit watershed this summer.

Letterboxing is a great way to explore the natural wonders of Skagit County while learning how to help protect our watershed.



Participants follow clues to discover hidden letterboxes, which include a journal (for stamping) and a stamp or stickers for participants to place in their own journal. In addition, participants collect a “special word” to record at each site.

Clues will be released on June 24. Stop by the PUD lobby, any public library, or visit our website at SkagitPUD.org for a list of Letterbox Trail clues. A special fall wrap-up celebration is scheduled for all Letterboxers on **October 13**.

YOUR WATER IQ SCORE

6-8 Correct: Congratulations, you're a waterwise genius! You understand that water is a precious resource that must be used efficiently.

4-5 Correct: You're a waterwise expert!

0-3 Correct: You're a waterwise novice. But that means there is room for improvement!

Learn more about why water efficiency is important and how you can become more water-efficient, visit the SkagitPUD.org website.

