

DID YOU KNOW?

It takes H₂O
According to the U.S.

Geological Survey, it takes an average of 39,000 gallons of water to manufacture a car, 1,440 gal to produce a dozen eggs, and 20 gal to run a household dishwasher.

Where's the water?

Of all the water in the world, 97% is in the oceans and about 1.7% is locked up in ice and snow. Icecaps and glaciers hold the majority of the Earth's freshwater—about 68.7%.

Drink up!

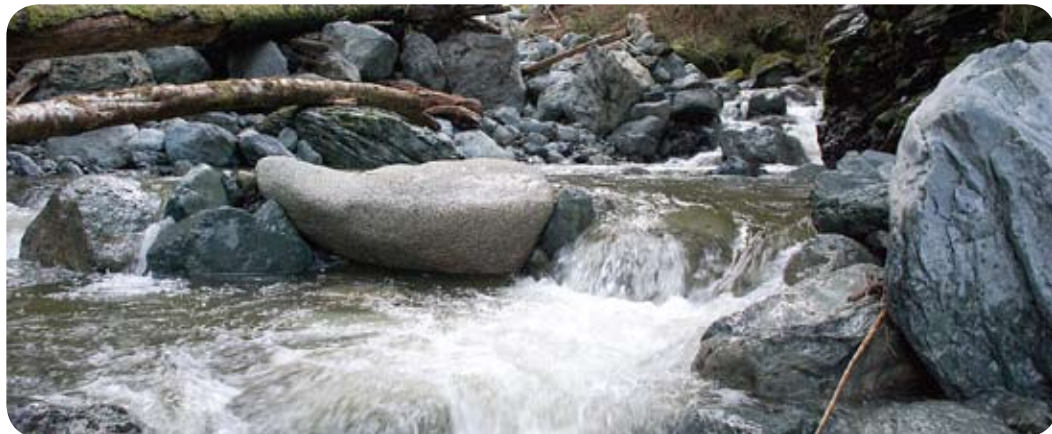
You should consume the equivalent of about eight 8-ounce glasses of water every day to stay healthy. About 60% of the adult human body is water, so you need to replace the fluids that you lose through your breath, perspiration, and excretion.

Sing in the rain

A full bathtub requires about 70 gallons of water, while taking a five-minute shower under a low-flow showerhead uses 10 to 25 gallons. Grab a FREE five-minute shower timer at our main office.



Source: American Water Works Association



Gilligan Creek, located high in the Cultus Mountain watershed, is a main source of water for Judy Reservoir.

WATER QUALITY

Taste & odor events come with seasons

THIS SPRING, SKAGIT PUD HAS EXPERIENCED AN increase in the number of customer calls involving taste and odor concerns. Taste and odor issues are some of the most difficult for a water system to address. One reason for the difficulty is that taste and odor evaluations are very subjective: what is offensive to one individual may not be even detectable to another.

All water has its own unique taste and odor characteristics. Skagit PUD's water treatment plant draws water from Judy Reservoir, east of Clear Lake, which is supplied from four streams within the Cultus Mountains and the Skagit River. Like many other water systems, we occasionally experience taste and odor changes. The types of odors in drinking water are directly related to the compounds present in the source water.

Algae Growth

The most significant source of odor in water supplies is the growth and decay of microorganisms in surface water. Blue-green algae, green algae, diatoms, and flagellates are the four algae groups responsible for most odor complaints. Algae thrive at different

times of the year in reservoirs. As these organisms grow and multiply, they excrete small amounts of harmless chemicals into the water that cause a musty, moldy, or earthy taste and odor. Although algae are removed during the treatment process, some of their metabolites (non-toxic, odorant chemicals) may be left behind.

Concentration Levels

The two most common metabolites are geosmin and 2-methylisoborneol (MIB). Even though these compounds are harmless, the human senses of taste and smell are extremely sensitive to them and can detect them in the water at concentrations as low as five parts per trillion.

Algae are common, normal inhabitants of surface waters and are beneficial to the health of a water body. Low concentrations of most algae are an asset rather than a liability in a raw water source. Algae are important as primary producers of organic matter at the base of the food chain and are useful indicators of pollution. They help remove excess nutrients, produce oxygen and provide spawning habitat for fish.

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Explore the wonders of the Skagit watershed with Letterbox Trail



Skagit PUD is once again 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 “magic word” to record at each site.

Letterboxes will be hidden and clues released by **June 19**. After the 19th, stop by the PUD lobby, any public library, or visit our Website at SkagitPUD.org for a list of Letterbox Trail clues. A special celebration is scheduled in the fall for all Letterboxers.

<< A young Letterboxer stamps his journal after finding Skagit PUD's Letterbox site last summer.

On the lookout for leaks

New meters offer improved leak detection to save you money

Skagit PUD recently completed a multi-year project for replacing its manual-read water meters with an automatic meter reading system. The new meters provide improved leak detection. Each one is equipped with a leak alarm which, every time it's read, can alert the meter technician that an account may have a potential leak.

If a leak is suspected, a meter technician will leave a door hanger notice at the customer's property address.

Leak Sources

You may have a leak in your system if your water meter has not stopped moving over a 24-hour period. Potential leaks could be caused by:

- Dripping faucets (inside or outside).
- Leaking toilet valve or flap.
- Loose or damaged pipe fittings.
- Service line failure.

Finding water leaks can save you water, which means saving money on water and

sewer bills. If ignored, a water leak could also result in costly property damage.

About Leaks

- A faucet that has 60 drips/minute will waste 2,082 gallons per year.
- A leaky toilet can waste about 200 gallons of water every day.
- A continuous leak from a 1/16-inch hole under 60 psi water pressure will leak 800 gallons of water in 24 hours.

Skagit PUD personnel cannot diagnose or repair customer leaks. If you are unable to repair the leak yourself, you may need to engage the services of a plumber.

Follow us online

You can now find Skagit PUD on **Facebook**, follow and chat with us on **Twitter**, or share a photo at **Flickr**. Join a discussion, give us some feedback, and let us know how we are doing. We are listening!



Water Quality

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Fortunately, for PUD customers, these earthy or musty odor events are temporary in nature, usually disappearing entirely when the temperature of Judy Reservoir changes.

The by-product that causes the odor is not harmful, nor will it affect normal water usage.

Please feel free to contact Skagit PUD if you have questions about the quality of your water.

Taste & Odor Tips

- 1 Flush your faucet for several minutes.
- 2 Collect freshened water into a clean container suitable for beverages, cover or cap it, and store it in the refrigerator for future drinking and cooking purposes.
- 3 Adding one or two teaspoons of lemon juice or a slice of lemon to refrigerated drinking water can also help improve the taste.
- 4 If the taste and odor is still present, you may want to consider an NSF certified home water treatment device.



Rain Barrels

If you would like info about our popular rain barrel program, please visit SkagitPUD.org or call 848-4477.