

DID YOU KNOW?

Your Water Footprint

Nearly 95% of your water footprint is hidden in the food you eat, energy you use, products you buy, and the services upon which you rely. The water it takes to produce the average American diet alone — approximately 1,000 gallons per person per day — is more than the global average water footprint of 900 gallons per person per day for diet, household use, transportation, energy and the consumption of material goods.



5-Minute Showers

An American taking a 5-minute shower uses more water than the average person in a developing country uses for an entire day.

Shower Better, Save Water

For only \$11, Skagit PUD sells a water efficiency kit that contains a multi-mode massage showerhead and ultra-efficient faucet aerators. Install these items today for more economical and enjoyable showering with better faucet flow. For more information about water-saving ideas, please visit our website at SkagitPUD.org or call (360) 424-7104.



Saving Water in Your Yard

NATURAL LAWN & GARDEN CARE TIPS

SUMMERTIME IS THE PRIME TIME TO CONSERVE water with its reduced rainfall, warmer temperatures, and landscaping emphasis. During a Northwest summer, water usage is at an all-time high while water supplies are at their lowest. Summer water use can increase a typical family's consumption by 50% to 100% or more!

Believing in water conservation doesn't mean you have to forsake a nice-looking yard. Here are some tips to help you save water and have a beautiful, healthy, sustainable yard.

1. Water your yard (AT MOST) an inch a week, gardens less.

A brown lawn is not a dead lawn. Grass naturally goes dormant in the summer and will green up again in the fall when the rains begin. If you must water, don't over-water. Over-watering not only wastes water but carries toxic fertilizers and pesticides into our rivers, lakes, and streams. Your grass needs at most an inch of water a week, and established gardens usually require less. It's best to water your lawn

separately from gardens and shrubs. You can measure your watering using inexpensive rain gauges or tuna cans placed randomly around the yard. If you don't have an automatic sprinkler system or timer on your sprinkler, use a kitchen timer to remind yourself to turn off the water. The best watering practices for your lawn are to water infrequently but deeply (at most one inch per week!) That encourages deep root growth and keeps the soil moist. Soaker hoses and drip irrigation are great for watering your plants because they deliver water slowly and evenly to the roots,



Saving Water > SEE BACK PAGE

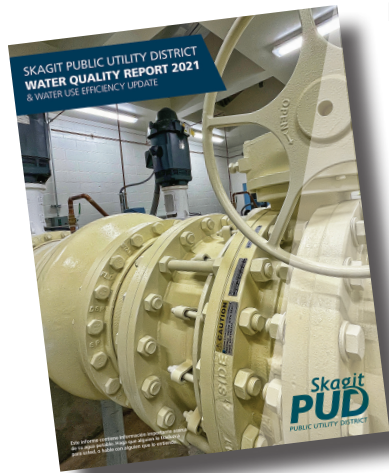
Look for signs in your neighborhood. As part of Skagit PUD's ongoing maintenance and water quality efforts, the utility conducts a water line flushing program throughout its 650-mile water system.

Water moves through underground pipes at less than 1½ miles per hour. 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 microorganisms can also coat the pipe's inner surface. If left unchecked, the materials can restrict water flow and contribute to the pipe corroding.

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



Water Quality Reports Now Available Online



Every time you turn on the tap in your home, you receive one of the world's most precious commodities — fresh, clean drinking water. At Skagit PUD, we are committed to providing you the safest and most reliable drinking water possible at an affordable price.

As part of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act of 1996, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requires all water utilities to provide their customers with an annual water quality report. Skagit PUD's water undergoes rigorous testing beyond what is required by state and federal laws. In 2021, your water not only met all requirements but exceeded the standards in many cases.

The Water Quality Report documents the PUD's ongoing commitment to providing high-quality drinking water to our customers. View the report to read about the source of your water and the measures we take to ensure it remains clean and safe. Included with the report is the annual progress update on Skagit PUD's Water Use Efficiency goals.

To view the reports, visit <https://www.skagitpud.org/media/5b3hnqki/ccr2021.pdf>. If you wish to have a paper copy, you can print one directly from our website or you can receive a printed version by contacting the PUD's Water Quality department at (360) 848-2135.

Saving Water: Create Healthy Natural NW Yard

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decreasing loss to evaporation and saving up to 60% to 70% over hose watering.

2. Water according to the weather.

Pay attention to the weather. One inch per week includes rainfall. Decrease watering time during cool or humid conditions. If it's rained moderately that week, you won't need to! A good downpour can eliminate the need to water for several weeks. If you have automatic sprinklers, turn them off if rainfall has been sufficient for your yard's needs. If you have a "smart" controller, it will do this for you.

3. Water in the morning or the evening.

Watering in the early morning hours is best because that's when temperatures and wind speed are the lowest. This reduces loss from evaporation and the possibility of disease. If you can't water in the morning, watering in the evening is the next best thing. Don't water during the heat of the day.

4. Don't water pavement.

Streets, driveways, and sidewalks don't need to be watered. Position your sprinkler or sprinkler heads so that water lands on the lawn and shrubs. Don't use

water to clean off driveways or sidewalks. Use a broom instead. Don't wash your car — car washes are more efficient and recycle their water. Using a hose on your sidewalk or car can waste hundreds of gallons of water.

Smart watering is just one of four simple steps to a healthy and natural Northwest yard. There are also five steps to Natural Yard Care. If you use all five of these steps, you will reduce water consumption and have a healthier yard.

Build healthy soil with compost and mulch.

Build healthy soil with compost and mulch. Building healthy soil helps plants develop deeper roots and reduces pest and weed problems. Mulching is also a great way to hold water in the soil, meaning you can water less!

Plant right for your site.

Choose plants that are right for the location where you are planting them. Talk to your nursery professional when selecting plants. Consider the amount of sun and water they will receive and the soil conditions. When possible, consider choosing native plants or plants that require less water.

Practice smart watering.

As we've discussed, watering in moderation is best for most plants. Water only what your plants need. Watering slowly and deeply will encourage deeper roots and less need for watering.

Think twice before using pesticides.

Keeping your plants healthy will eliminate the need for many pesticides. You can also encourage natural pest killers, like ladybugs, to eliminate unwanted pests.

Practice natural lawn care.

Use a mulching mower to leave clippings on the lawn and provide moisture and nutrients. Mow high and less often. Grass naturally goes dormant in periods of drought but will green up again when water becomes available. Reduce fertilizer applications.



Source:
Partnership
for Water
Conservation