

DID YOU KNOW?

Water Availability

Nearly three-quarters of the Earth's surface is covered with water, but less than 1% is suitable and available for drinking using conventional water treatment.



Climate Impacts

Climate change is having a significant impact on our water supplies. Increasing temperatures raise evaporation rates, change precipitation patterns, affect runoff and water quality, and alter water-use demands.

Down the Drain

Be careful of what you pour down your drain. It's the gateway to your wastewater disposal system and eventually to our water supply.



Hit the Ale Trail

Join us on the Skagit Farm to Pint Ale Trail this fall. Collect passport stamps and win prizes! Skagit PUD is helping sponsor this fun event. Grab your passport at one of 13 Skagit Valley breweries. Collect all the stamps and score a souvenir pint glass.



BE PREPARED BEFORE A CRISIS

Know how to shut off your water if pipes spring a leak



All plumbing materials age over time, and when they do, they become susceptible to damage and leaks. Knowing where your home's main water supply is located and how to turn it off is as important as knowing how to find and reset an electric circuit-breaker.

Do you know where the master water shut-off valve is in your home?

Knowing how to turn the water off is something everyone living in the house should be able to do, including the kids. You never know when you'll have a pipe spring a leak, and you need to turn the water off in a hurry. During an emergency, you can't afford to waste time searching for it!

First, you need to locate the master shut-off valve. Understanding how the water comes to your house can help you identify and find it. Skagit PUD has waterline mains that feed different parts of a service area. Off the main line, distribution lines provide water to your house. Before water gets to your home, there's a meter with a shut-off valve. Technically, you can shut the water off to the property here, but the PUD prefers that you don't use this valve because of the potential

for damage. So, this is the last resort option to shut the water off from the meter.

Water lines usually run from the water meter to the master shut-off valve without extra piping or detours. Therefore, if you know where your water meter is located outside, look for the shortest path to your home. The valve is more than likely found here.

The most common location for the master valve would be:

- Where the water supply pipe enters the foundation.
- Near your clothes washer hook-up.
- Near your hot water tank.



SHUT-OFF VALVE > [SEE BACK PAGE](#)

New Leak Policy Change in Effect

Annually, Skagit PUD spends over \$100,000 on leak adjustments, not including staff time, investigating individual leaks, which is an expense to all water customers.

With the change to the leak policy in July, adjustments are now limited to leaks or breaks in the section of the water service line between the water meter and the primary structure served. No adjustment will be made for leaks or breaks beyond the external entrance to the structure. This includes leaks within or under a house, internal or exterior fixtures, or irrigation lines.

“Many of the former leak adjustments were for customers who failed to winterize their house and faucets or had a leaky toilet,” PUD Finance Manager Brian Henshaw explained.

“We want to differentiate between preventable maintenance items and true leaks caused by a break in the pipe. We not only want customers to be responsible but also to conserve water.”

Property owners can receive only one leak adjustment every five years, regardless of changes in tenants or occupants. Adjustments are only available for residential customers.

Have you identified a leak in your plumbing system?

Sometimes a leak can be identified by the sound of running water or by a constant damp area; however, sometimes the only way to become aware of it is to notice an increase in the water usage that could sharply increase your water bill.

The vast majority of high bills are due to hidden or ignored water leaks.

A continuous leak from a hole this size would, over three months, waste water in the amount shown below.

Streams Diameter at 50 psi Inches	Gallons	Daily Average Gallons
1/4"	1,181,000	13,122
3/16"	652,000	7,244
1/8"	296,000	3,288
1/16"	74,000	822

How to Find the Water Shut-Off Valve Before Crisis Strikes

> CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Locating the Proper Shut-Off Valve

Almost every home, apartment, and business has a master shut-off valve. To determine if you've found it, try turning the valve off briefly and see if that shuts off all water faucets in the building. If not, repeat this process with each valve until you find the one that does shut off all taps.

Basements. The shut-off valve is typically located near the front foundation wall. The line may come through the concrete floor or the wall. The valve is typically within three to five feet of where the service line enters.

Sometimes, the service line may enter a different area, like a mechanical room, up through the floor, near the water heater or furnace.

Crawlspace plus a basement. The shut-off valve may be where the service line enters the basement; in some older homes, the shut-off may be inside the crawl space. If your shut-off valve is in a crawl space, you may want to consider a secondary valve located in the basement.

Crawlspace with no basement. The shut-off valve is typically located near the water heater or under the kitchen sink, but anywhere is possible. If it's inside the crawlspace, you may want

to consider a second valve located in the living space, for example, near the water heater or under a sink.

Slab-on-grade construction. The shut-off valve is typically located near the water heater or under the kitchen sink, but anywhere is possible.

Once you've found the master valve, mark it with something distinctive — bright paint, a tag, or ribbon. Marking it will save you valuable time should you ever experience interior flooding or other crisis requiring quick water shut off.

