

DID YOU KNOW?

Maintain Your Meter Box For Easy Access

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 you and Skagit PUD to access the water meter and shut-off valve easily. It also serves to protect the water meter.

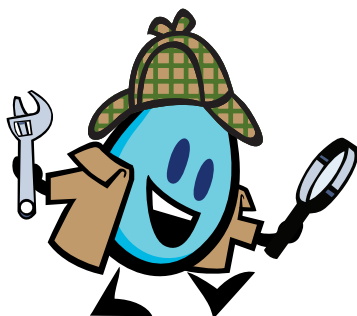
Skagit PUD utilizes an automatic meter reading (AMR) system to read your water use. The AMR mobile system has a transmitter located at each meter that transmits water usage readings to a radio receiver when it's within range of the transmitted signal. When a meter technician drives within signal range, customer usage data is collected and uploaded to our billing system.

For ease of access, please remember to:

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

Get Your Rain Barrels

Collecting rainwater is an easy way to conserve water — and save on your water bill. Skagit PUD sells ready to install 55-gallon rain barrels for \$65 plus tax.



Take the 10 Minute Water Leak Challenge

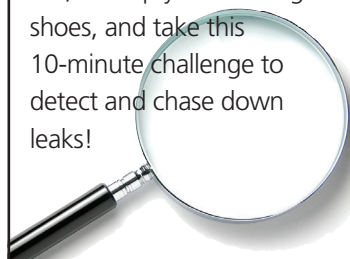
DETECT AND CHASE DOWN LEAKS

Did You Know

that easy-to-fix water leaks account for more than one trillion gallons of water wasted yearly in U.S. homes? In fact, the average household leaks more than 10,000 gallons of water per year, or the amount of water it takes to wash 270 loads of laundry, and could be costing you an extra 10% on your water bills.

In just 10 minutes, you can search your home for leaks and crack down on water waste. Many common household leaks are quick to find and easy to fix. Worn toilet flappers, dripping faucets, and leaking showerheads are all easily correctable and can save on your utility bill expenses and water in our community.

So put on your detective hat, lace up your running shoes, and take this 10-minute challenge to detect and chase down leaks!



Checklist for Chasing Down Leaks

Here are some of the places leaks may be hiding in your home.

Some leaks require a simple fix — a worn toilet flapper, loose pipe connection, or showerhead with stray spray. But you may want to consult a licensed plumber to stop your running toilet, broken sprinklers, water heater drips, or malfunctioning water supply lines. Take a quick inventory of clues to water waste:

IN THE BATHROOM

- Toilets:** Listen for running water. Put a few drops of food coloring into the tank at the back of your toilet and let it sit for 10 minutes. If color shows up in the bowl, you have a leak.
- Faucets:** Listen for drips and turn on the tap to check for water going the wrong direction.
- Showerheads:** Turn on and look for drips or stray sprays that can be stopped with Teflon plumber's tape.
- In the tub:** Turn on the tub, then divert the water to the shower and see if there's still a lot of water coming from the tub; that could mean the tub spout diverter needs replacing.
- Under the sink:** Check for pooling water under pipes and rust around joints and edges.

IN THE KITCHEN

- Faucet:** Listen for drips and tighten aerators or replace fixtures if necessary.
- Sprayer:** Check to ensure water is spraying smoothly and clean openings as needed.

Detect Leaks > [SEE BACK PAGE](#)

Detect and Chase Down Leaks

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IN THE KITCHEN

- Under the sink:** Check for pooling water under pipes and rust around joints and edges.
- Appliances:** Check for pooling water underneath dishwashers and refrigerators with ice makers, which could indicate a supply line leak.

IN THE LAUNDRY ROOM OR UTILITY ROOM

- Under the sink:** Check for pooling water under pipe connections.
- Clothes washer:** Check for pooling water, which could indicate a supply line leak.

IN THE BASEMENT, UTILITY ROOM OR GARAGE

- Water heater:** Check beneath the tank for pooling water, rust, or other signs of leakage.

DON'T FORGET TO GO OUTSIDE

- At the spigot:** Ensure tight connections with the hose and see if the hose washer needs replacing.
- In-ground irrigation system:** Check for broken sprinklers or nozzles spraying in the wrong direction.

THROUGHOUT THE HOUSE

Check for signs of moisture or mold on your walls, ceilings, or floors. This could indicate that a pipe is wreaking havoc behind the scenes and requires the attention of a professional.

If any fixtures need replacing, remember to look for the WaterSense label when purchasing plumbing products. WaterSense-labeled products are independently certified to use at least 20% less water and perform as well or better than standard models.



Drops & Watts: You Can't Have One Without the Other

On average, the annual energy used to deliver and treat water for only 10 households could power a refrigerator for over two years. Heating water for showering, bathing, shaving, cooking, and cleaning also requires considerable energy. Homes with electric water heaters, for example, spend one-quarter of their electric bill just to heat water.

Installing water-efficient products is one of the simplest ways to save water and energy. The Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense-labeled products not only save water but can help reduce your energy bills.

Installing WaterSense-labeled faucet aerators in your bathrooms, for example, costs just a few dollars but could save you enough electricity to dry your hair every day for a year!

You can choose from thousands of models of WaterSense-labeled plumbing products. What's more, you can be sure the products will not only save resources but will perform well. All WaterSense-labeled products are tested and independently certified to ensure they meet EPA's criteria for both efficiency and performance.

With pervasive droughts and high energy prices nationwide, nearly everyone is looking for ways to conserve resources and cut costs. The good news is that by using a little "water sense," we can all save water, energy, and money. Start saving both water and energy today!

To make it easy to try a water and energy-saving products, Skagit PUD sells water efficiency kits that contain a WaterSense multi-mode massage showerhead and ultra-efficient faucet aerators for just \$11. The kits can be purchased at our main office. Visit SkagitPUD.org for more information about WaterSense-labeled products.



High-efficiency faucet aerators can help save you money.

Sign Up For Paperless Billing

Skagit PUD offers paperless billing. It's fast, secure, and convenient. Paperless billing is an easy way to receive your statement and clears the clutter of paper bills. You'll receive an email alert when your statement arrives.

- **It's fast.** Skagit PUD emails you as soon as your statement is posted.

- **It's secure.** Access 32 months of billing history in your protected online account. No need to file or shred paper bills.
- **It's easy.** No more hassling with stamps and paper bills.

Visit SkagitPUD.org to learn more and sign up.