



Thurston PUD Newsletter

We are committed to providing safe, reliable, affordable, and sustainable water services to our customers.

May 2025

Leadership Message

How to Remove Chlorine From Your Water

By Kim Gubbe, Director of Planning & Compliance

Chlorine plays a key role in keeping drinking water safe. Many public water systems contain added chlorine in the water supply for the purpose of disinfection, but it can also be used for other purposes such as iron and manganese removal treatment. Chlorine is required for certain water systems, but some people experience sensitivity or may be allergic to chlorine. While chlorine may be required by Department of Health (DOH), there are ways to remove it for those who choose to do so.



Kim Gubbe, Director of Planning & Compliance

What is chlorination?

Drinking water chlorination is the addition of chlorine to drinking water systems. It is the most common type of drinking water disinfection. Disinfection kills bacteria and other microorganisms that cause disease and illness. Chlorine is effective and continues to keep water safe as it travels through the distribution system to the customers tap.

During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, waterborne diseases like typhoid fever and dysentery were a common part of life. In the early 1900s, cities started disinfecting drinking water supplies. Health professionals regard the chlorination of water as one of the most important advances in the field of public health.

Is drinking water chlorination required?

Chlorination may be required for public water systems for various reasons. One of these reasons is for the purpose of disinfection to kill harmful bacteria like total coliform and e. coli. Sometimes, water systems use chlorination for iron and manganese removal, and to stop any growth in wells, water pipes, or storage facilities. Not all water systems require chlorination, but it's common that some do.

Is chlorinated water safe to drink?

Yes, chlorinated water is safe to drink, cook, clean, and bathe with. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) limits the amount of chlorine in drinking water to levels that are safe for human consumption. Thurston PUD monitors the chlorine levels in our water systems daily and works hard to keep the chlorine levels at a perfect balance and undetectable to our customers.

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Thurston PUD Commissioners

District 1

Linda Oosterman

District 2

Russell E. Olsen


District 3

Chris Stearns

Important Messages

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Happy Drinking Water Week! May 4-10, 2025

In 1988, the American Water Works Association (AWWA) brought Drinking Water Week to the attention of the U.S. government and formed a coalition along with the League of Women Voters, the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Rep. Robert Roe and Sen. Dennis DeConcini subsequently sponsored a resolution to name the first week of May as Drinking Water Week, and the week-long observance was declared in a joint congressional resolution signed by then President Ronald Reagan.



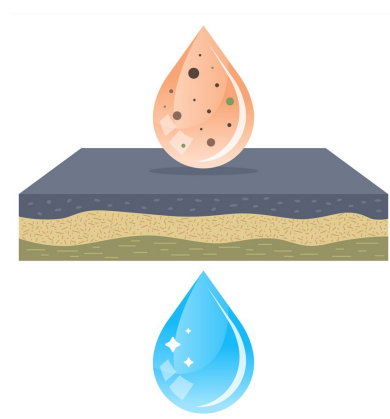
Water professionals are the unsung heroes of our communities. They work tirelessly to protect public health and ensure safe, reliable water delivery around the clock. This Drinking Water Week, please join us in thanking utility staff and water professionals everywhere for their expertise, dedication, and commitment to keeping our communities healthy.

How to Remove Chlorine From Your Water (*Continued from Page 1*)

How do I remove chlorine from my water?

If you have a sensitivity, an allergy, or are bothered by the taste or smell of chlorine in your water, you can safely remove it using a few different methods.

1. Let the water sit. Fill a clean pitcher with water and set it aside for several hours or in the refrigerator for 24 hours. The chlorine will naturally evaporate from the water while it sits.
2. Boiling the water. Faster than letting the water sit, boiling water for about 15-20 minutes will remove the taste of chlorine. You can store the boiled water in a pitcher in your refrigerator to cool down before drinking (or use immediately for hot beverages).
3. Installing a treatment device. Many treatment devices can remove chlorine to improve water taste and odor. When selecting a treatment device, make sure to choose one that has been certified to NSF International (NSF)/American National Standards Institute (ANSI) 42 *Drinking Water Treatment Units – Aesthetic Effects*.



Although there are several treatment options, the most budget friendly treatment option to remove chlorine from your water is by installing a granular activated carbon (GAC) water filter. GAC filters use activated carbon to remove impurities by absorption. The carbon's porous structure creates a large surface area where contaminants can stick, effectively trapping them as water passes through. One of the most common brands of these types of filters is Brita.

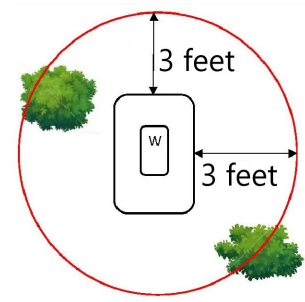
There is a wide range of products with differing price points for these types of filters. Some of the available products on the market include under the sink devices, countertop devices, pitchers, dispensers, reusable water bottles, showerheads, and faucet mounts. These are all examples of point-of-use (POU) systems, systems that remove chlorine from specifically where the device is being used. There are also whole home filtration systems, or point-of-entry (POE) systems, that will remove chlorine from where the water enters your house and treats water to the entire building. There are pros and cons for both systems, so each user should evaluate what works best for them.

It's safe to drink dechlorinated water, but keep in mind that water filters work by trapping and holding contaminants, so it's important to replace them regularly to maintain optimum performance. For more information on chlorination and the EPA Guide to Selecting Water Treatment Systems, visit our website at www.thurstonpud.org and select the Water Systems tab at the top of the page.

Keeping Easements Clear—Accessing Your Water Meter

Thurston PUD employs three meters readers who are responsible for reading 9,338 meters every month. Please keep your meter accessible so they can quickly read your meter during their scheduled meter reading route. If your meter is obstructed, Customer Service may have to estimate your meter read for billing purposes. Water consumption and actual bill amounts will be reconciled on the next month's bill when staff is able to get a meter read. If your meter is obstructed for multiple months, you may be charged a non-compliance fee. By keeping your meter box accessible, you can avoid this charge. Additionally, an easy-to-access box makes it easy to ensure that the meter can be quickly turned off in an emergency.

Trees, bushes, and plantings. Trim bushes, trees, and grass that block the way or cover the meter. During the spring season, plants can cover a water meter box very quickly! Please minimize plants in the area which meter readers must travel by to get to your meter. We would like to avoid any accidental damage to your prized plantings.



Three (3) feet is the recommended clearance area for meter boxes

Pets. Keep pets away from the path that leads to your meter during your scheduled meter reading day. We understand many customers have guard dogs for security, we ask that you arrange to confine the dog during the day that your meter will be read. You can look at your bill to find the approximate date your meter reader shows up each month, or call our Customer Service Team for your approximate monthly meter read date.

Meters are read between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.



Meter hidden under beauty bark

Objects that cover or block your meter. Please make sure that no objects cover or block access to the meter box. Some items we have found blocking access to water meters include vehicles, trailers, garbage cans, beauty bark, and gravel.

Locked gates. If your meter is located behind a gate that is normally kept locked, please contact us to arrange access. We often obtain access codes from customers who wish to secure their property. And, as long as the lock is accessible from the exterior of the gate, our meter readers will still be able to access the meter.

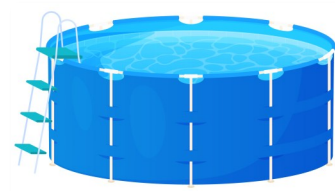
If you see a blue flag near your meter box, please leave it there for at least 90 days. Meter readers are responsible for knowing where 9,338 meters are; the flags help them memorize where the meter is on your property. We thank you on behalf of our meter reading staff!

Filling a Pool?

Summer is around the corner! In order to prepare for higher temperatures and summer fun, customers should get a head start on filling their pools. If you have a pool that you'd like to fill, please keep a few things in mind:

- ♦ For your water system, peak demand times may vary, but usually customers are using the most water in the morning (when getting ready for work) and in the evening (when returning from work). We recommend filling your pool **outside of** peak demand times.
- ♦ It will take several hours to fill a 5,000-gallon pool with a ½-inch garden hose.
- ♦ Filling a 5,000-gallon pool will add approximately 668 cubic feet (cf) to your monthly consumption total which will also increase your consumption charge for the month.

Based on the information above, we suggest filling your pool in increments over a few days during off-peak demand times. This will help prevent possible outages if your water system's well cannot keep up with demand; this could also help prevent certain water quality issues caused by an overworked water system.



The Capital Surcharge and 2024 Capital Improvement Projects (CIPs)

We know the importance of infrastructure investments and planning for infrastructure replacements. The Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) are funded in part by Capital Surcharges, per the PUD's Asset Management Plan (AMP). Our staff strives to provide up-to-date information on these projects to help customers better understand the work needed to keep safe drinking water flowing. To help answer some of the most frequently asked questions about replacements, the AMP, and the CIP, a list of this information has been compiled below for your review.

What is an Asset Management Plan? An Asset Management Plan (AMP) is a financial planning tool we use when water system components will reach the end of their life cycles. We predict costs which helps us determine how much we need to budget each year. Staff has created an AMP for each of the 271 water systems owned and operated by the PUD.

What is a Capital Improvement? A capital improvement is a permanent structural change, addition, or alteration to infrastructure that adds to the value of the infrastructure or prolongs its useful life.

What is the Capital Surcharge? Why is it charged? The Capital Surcharge is a financial tool used to help fund infrastructure replacements and capital improvements based on a water system's Asset Management Plan (AMP). Capital surcharges are used to help fund system replacements at the end of an asset's life cycle. The capital surcharge is paid by all PUD customers and infrastructure replacement costs are shared by all PUD customers. This means if your water system has a component failure, the cost is covered through your rates and capital surcharges.

What capital projects or improvements does my system need? As stated previously, the PUD has created an AMP for each of the PUD's 276 water systems. Based on a water system's AMP, we projected and budgeted several Capital Improvement Projects for 2024. You can find the current year's Capital Budget on our website at www.thurstonpud.org/our-rates.htm.

Below is a list of some CIPs that have been completed through December 31, 2024.

Category	Affected Water Systems	Cost
CI-44 Pumphouse	Nisqually Vista 229, Wilderness Glen 263, Rommerman 286, Sky Acres 370, Hebert 380, Berry 2 671, Guava 719, Offut Lake 735, Pecan Rd 736, Reserve CP 3 739	\$ 69,355
CI-50 Mainline Replacement	Pattison 500	\$ 48,519
CI-62 Treatment Replacement/Upgrades	Marshall 228, C Muck 1 256, Pleasant Valley 307, 336th 1-2 310-311, Eastridge 2-3 347-348, Walczak 620, Tanglewilde 600, Cornerstone 606, Talcott 695, Violet Meadows A-D 747-750, Violet Meadows 1-6 751-756	\$ 230,287
CI-65 Pressure Tanks	Frick 248, Bald Hills 250, Brookhaven 1 287, Coppermill 520, Prairie Ridge 605, Horsfall 608, Maxvale 618, Foron 629, 141st Ave KPN 661, Crocker Creek 663, Berry 2-3 671-672, Countrywood 680, Hawley Hills 686, Silver Fox 693, James C 727, Reserve CP 4 740, Violet Meadows D and 1-6 750-756	\$ 51,839
CI-66 System Upgrades	Nisqually Highlands 364, Pattison 500, Prairie Ridge 605, Timberline 628, Crocker Creek 663, Sward 278	\$ 57,608
CI-68 Wells	Loma Vista 369	\$ 76,413
CI-75 Service/Source Meters	Prairie Villa 230, Seed 235, Tolmie Estates 239, Trinity Muck 1 241, Elk Heights 247, Smith S Prairie 251, C Muck 2 257, H Muck 2 260, Wilderness Glen 263, Travis Jack 264, Brighton Creek 270, Homestead 1 315, Pit 328, Eastridge W 344, Lazy Acres 351, Terry Lane 354, Pattison 500, Maple 502, Hemlock 512, Country Club Estates 521, Glen Alder 522, Tanglewilde 600, Prairie Ridge 605, Hawk Acres, 607, Horsfall 608, Ridgewood 609, Walczak 620, ROM 626, Timberline Village 628, Boots & Saddles 662, Roy 325th 668, Spanaway 192nd 669, Countrywood 680, Hawley Hills 686, Longhorn 687, Meadows 690, Empire 714, Guava St B East 718, Mallory C 1 730, Middle Street 732 Violet Meadows 4 754 Scatter Creek 760	\$ 174,553
CI-76 Pump Replacements	Frick 248, Brown S Prairie 249, T Muck 3 261, Wilderness Glen 263, Nisqually Highlands 364, Pattison 500, Coppermill 520, Highlands 623, Foron 629, Spanaway 192nd 669, Countrywood 680, Riverlea 692, Middle Rd 732	\$ 60,028
Total		\$ 768,602