



Fall 2024

WATER WHYS

The Latest from ECCV

Sustaining our community by providing safe, reliable water

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Your FREE Meter App

HOW TO TRACK WATER USAGE WITH EYEONWATER



Find how-to videos on connecting your account to the Eye On Water app. Visit the URL at the end of this article.

ECCV conducts an ongoing water meter replacement program. This involves swapping out the oldest meters in the District for new ones. It takes about ten years to fully change out all residential meters throughout the District. Once completed, the meters installed early in the previous cycle will be ready for replacement and the cycle starts anew.

By the end of this year, a majority of addresses in the ECCV service area will have modern meters that are app compatible. This allows customers to access their usage information on-demand, and even set alerts for possible leaks.

Customers can download the free Eye On Water app on their computer or mobile devices, and connect it to their ECCV account. We've heard from a number of customers who have used Eye On Water to detect leaks and make easy water-saving adjustments to their monthly routines.

Find more information, and video tutorials, on how to get started using the Eye On Water app at www.ECCV.org/homeowner-information-EOW.



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A Summer of Savings

It was an eventful summer for the ECCV Water Efficiency team. The crew welcomed customers at an Open House, participated in a Touch A Truck event for families, and helped hundreds of customers with their water saving questions and projects. ECCV also continued to offer multiple free and discounted programs to help customers save water and money. That included:

172

Discounted, water-efficient Gardens In A Box purchased by ECCV customers

126

Free sprinkler assessments and customized watering plans provided to ECCV customers through the Slow the Flow program

22

Applicants for discounted turf replacement projects to swap portions of water-needy lawn for water-efficient plantings

Measuring Efficient Water Use

Most customers will see their home water usage start to drop considerably as sprinkler systems get turned off for the season. This makes it easier to keep track of everyday, inside-the-home water use.

During months where no outdoor watering is taking place, a water efficient household will generally use about 1,200 gallons of water per person, per month. For example, a household of four people that are using water efficiently would use 4,800 gallons in a month (keep in mind: ECCV bills per thousand gallons used).

If you're seeing your water usage come in consistently higher than that level this fall and winter, it might be inefficient use (such as really long showers), but is often due to unintended use. Many times that's a toilet valve that isn't fully sealing after a flush.

A continuously running toilet can sometimes be tough to detect. One surefire way to check for toilet leaks is to put a few drops of food coloring into the toilet tank. Then wait 10-15 minutes and look for any signs of color inside the bowl. If you see some, a trip to the hardware store for a replacement flapper can make a notable difference in your home's water use.



Efficient Monthly Indoor Use =
1,200 gallons per person

Preparing for Colder Weather

October and early November are the time to transition home water systems from summer to winter. Freezing temperatures can enter the forecast quickly. Having outdoor water lines emptied, and exposed indoor lines insulated helps avoid costly damage from burst pipes.

- * **Sprinkler systems**—ECCV recommends working with a professional to drain and blowout your system with pressurized air. If a hard freeze is expected before this can be completed, turn off the water supply to your sprinklers and drain water from the above-ground portions of your system.
- * **Hoses**—Disconnect hoses when not in use and make sure they are fully drained.
- * **Exposed pipes**—Look for pipes inside your home in areas that aren't insulated or are near drafty doors and windows. These are susceptible to freezing when temperatures plummet. Wrap pipes with insulating blankets or tape to help prevent freezing. If using heat tape, it's recommended you consult with a professional as incorrect application can result in a fire.
- * **Master shutoff valve**—It's worth making sure everyone in your home knows where this is located. In the event of a burst pipe, this valve will shut off the flow of water inside your home and help minimize costly damage.



Master shutoff valves are typically located close to where water pipes enter the home. This is often near entryways, but may also be in basements.

Cooking Oil Disposal



Help keep your home and neighborhood sewer lines flowing by properly disposing of cooking fats, oils, and grease this holiday season.

Cooler weather often finds ovens, stovetops, fryers and smokers getting called into consistent service to prepare some amazing fall and holiday feasts. With great food comes great responsibility to keep home and community drains clear of fats, oils, and grease (FOG).

FOG usually starts out as a liquid inside fryers, pots, roasting pans and drip trays making it awfully tempting to pour it down the drain. The problem is it doesn't stay liquid. Once cooled, FOG solidifies into a sludge that can build up in home sewer lines and even main lines. If enough FOG builds up it can block the line causing sewer backups in your home, or in some instances, homes throughout a neighborhood. Yuck!

Whether you're going big and deep frying a whole turkey, or just roasting various foods, keep a few empty containers (with sealable lids) handy. Once FOG cools down to room temperature, pour it into the empty containers. From there you can mix in sand, sawdust or kitty litter to help it solidify, or toss the container in the freezer. Either way, make sure the the container lid is screwed on tightly. You can then dispose of the FOG containers in the trash.

One final note—oil from fryers can be re-used several times. Consider pouring cooled fryer oil back into its container and saving it for your next recipe.