



MEDFORD
WATER

Waterlines

Quarterly Newsletter of Medford Water
May 2023

WANT TO KNOW

What's in the
Water You
Drink?



Medford Water publishes an annual Consumer Confidence Report that includes water testing results for the previous year, and information explaining what the results mean.

It focuses on and provides additional details about compliance with regulations; it does not include data on all of the parameters tested (for a comprehensive listing of results, see our Water Quality Analyses on the Water Quality page of our website).

The Consumer Confidence Report for 2022 will be available by July 1. To view the report, go to medfordwater.org/ccr.

We're here for you:

Contact us:

(541) 774-2430
customerservice@medfordwater.org

medfordwater.org

200 South Ivy Street - Room 177
Medford, Oregon 97501

8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday - Friday

Socialize with us!

[facebook.com/MedfordWater](https://www.facebook.com/MedfordWater)

twitter.com/MedfordWater



WATER EFFICIENCY:

SMALL CHANGES ADD UP TO BIG SAVINGS

Medford Water is fortunate to have access to reliable, high quality drinking water to provide the communities we serve. With just the turn of the tap, we have fresh, clean water in our homes and businesses.

While having water readily available at the tap may make it seem like there is an abundance of water, local weather trends have caused water supplies to become more stressed over the past few years, especially supplies that serve irrigation districts. As drought occurs more frequently in southern Oregon, it is essential for our communities to work together to find ways to use the water we have as efficiently as possible.

Fortunately, this winter and spring we have received above-average

snowfall in our region, which is bringing some relief to the ongoing drought in our area. Although this change is positive, and improves our water supplies, it is important for individuals and communities to continue to prioritize water conservation efforts to help reduce the effects of drought in the Rogue Valley.

One of the easiest ways to conserve water is to fix any leaks or drips in your home. Even a small leak can waste a significant amount of water over time, so it is important to address leaks as soon as they are detected. Also, make sure to check for leaks in your sprinkler system. Water use in our area can quadruple during the summer, due to watering our landscapes, so being proactive and checking your sprinkler

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Spring is in full swing...



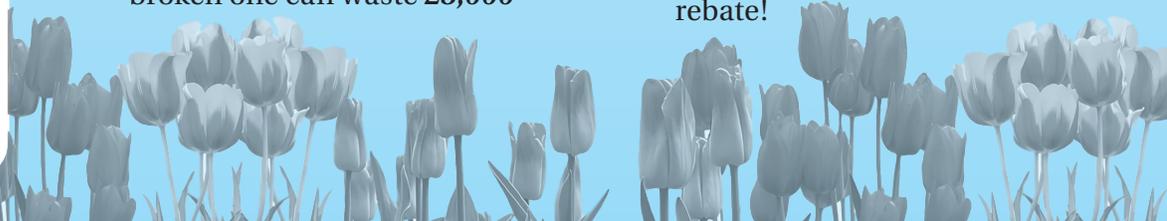
IT'S TIME FOR A SPRINKLER SPRUCE UP

Spring is well underway, and although routine watering is not typically necessary in May, summer is fast approaching. Now is a good time to check your sprinkler system for needed repairs or adjustments ahead of the summer watering season, to look for damage and reduce water waste. Spruce up your sprinkler system in four easy steps:

- **INSPECT** sprinkler heads. A broken one can waste **25,000**

gallons of water in six months.

- **CONNECT** sprinklers, hoses, and pipes well. A leak as small as the tip of a pen can waste **6,300 gallons** of water per month!
- **DIRECT** spray on landscape, not pavement.
- **SELECT** a WaterSense labeled irrigation controller so you can water smarter, and don't forget about our smart controller rebate!





GUARDING AGAINST CONTAMINATION

What is backflow?

In most respects, the quality of the water you drink is determined by the source of the water and the treatment it receives. However, you unknowingly may also play a role in preserving the quality of our water. If you have an in-ground irrigation system or pool, your role may be more important than you think!

You might ask, how can your pool or irrigation system impact water quality? The answer involves “backflow”. Contamination by backflow can occur when conditions cause water to reverse its normal direction of flow, causing tainted water to be drawn back into the household plumbing or the public water distribution system. This can happen when a hose is left in a pool, pond, or cleaning bucket. And although serious backflow incidents are not common, they do occur.

In-ground irrigation systems are the most widespread potential sources of backflow, but other plumbing systems associated with pool equipment, solar panels, fire sprinkler systems, and auxiliary water supplies such as wells are

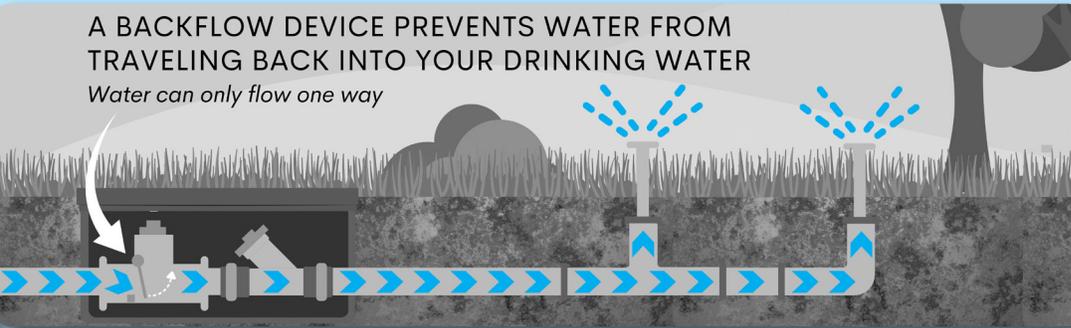
also possible sources. Since water within irrigation pipes can contain microbes or garden chemicals, these systems should always be equipped with backflow prevention device(s), as required under state health codes. There are several types, each subject to installation requirements; most are required to be tested after installation and each year thereafter.

To accomplish the common goals of maintaining safe drinking water while providing high-quality customer service, Medford Water’s Residential Backflow Program assists single-family residential customers with the annual testing and maintenance requirements for backflow prevention devices. The program provides annual testing and routine repair services for all privately-owned backflow devices located on single-family residential services.

Remember, the people most likely to be endangered by a backflow incident at your house are those closest to it, which includes your family and neighbors. Working together, we can prevent this type of contamination from occurring.

A BACKFLOW DEVICE PREVENTS WATER FROM TRAVELING BACK INTO YOUR DRINKING WATER

Water can only flow one way



Project Updates

Stay connected with our ongoing projects like the Academy Place Waterline Relocation and Capital Hill Reservoir Replacement project at medfordwater.org/ongoingprojects.



EFFICIENCY, CONT'D.

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systems for leaks, misaligned sprinklers, or runoff can help reduce excess use. As the weather changes, adjusting sprinkler controllers to align with weather conditions can significantly reduce overwatering.

Another way to conserve water is to replace older appliances with more water-efficient models. For example, choosing a WaterSense low-flow toilet or showerhead can significantly reduce water consumption without sacrificing performance. Additionally, turning off the water while brushing your teeth, shaving, or washing dishes can help reduce water waste and lower your bill.

Overall, water efficiency is a crucial aspect of responsible resource management, and there are many things that people can do to conserve water every day. By making small changes within your home and community, you can help ensure that water is used in the most efficient and sustainable way possible and protect the environment for future generations.

Medford Water

Established in 1922 by the City of Medford and governed by the Board of Water Commissioners.

Commissioners

Mike Smith • John Dailey

Jason Anderson • Bob Strosser • David Wright

General Manager

Brad Taylor

Serving Medford and Partner Cities:

Central Point, Eagle Point, Jacksonville, Phoenix, Talent and Ashland

Also serving:

White City area and the Elk City and Charlotte Ann Water Districts

