

HAVE YOU HAD YOUR IRRIGATION SYSTEM'S BACKFLOW DEVICE TESTED?

If you have an irrigation system, an approved backflow preventer should have been installed with your system, per code requirements. Backflow preventers protect your health, as well your neighbors' health, from a reverse flow of water back into your water supply. For instance, if there is a drop in pressure, the water in the pipes of your irrigation system could be pulled into the pipes in your house. This could allow fertilizers or other chemicals near your sprinkler heads to possibly end up in the water you drink.

When was your backflow preventer last tested?

Federal and State Regulations require that this device be tested annually by a certified tester to make sure it is protecting you the way it is meant to. This test must occur one year from your last test date and submitted to our office within 15 days of the test. Many customers test their systems in the spring, prior to turning on their sprinklers for the season.

The most common backflow preventer for an irrigation system, and the one we recommend, is a testable device called a reduced pressure principle backflow preventer (RP). This provides the ultimate protection, but only if it is working properly.

Visit www.loudounwater.org and click on Cross Connection/Backflow for a list of suggested certified testers and a test report for your tester to complete. Anyone who is certified in Virginia to test backflow preventers is acceptable. It is likely that the company that turns on your irrigation system each spring can help you.

If you haven't already, please contact us so we can add you to our backflow/cross connection database. We use this list to send out reminders to have these systems tested. We will also use this list to contact you as new information develops in relation to irrigation systems. Please call 571.291.7878 to add your name to our backflow database.

THINKING OF PLANTING THIS SPRING?



Did you know that you can have beautiful landscaping without using much water? We have recently mailed everyone in our Community Systems a landscape guide, which provides an extensive list of drought tolerant plants, trees and bushes, which can help reduce watering needs. You can also visit our website at www.loudounwater.org to see more ways to reduce irrigation use. Please let us know if you did not receive a copy of the guide and we'll send one to you.

Water You Thinking?

We're thinking a lot about your water system lately. The informational meetings we've held this spring about the proposed rate structure change have helped us understand how we can serve you better. One way we will be doing that is through more frequent communication with you. Another way is through an advisory group, comprising representatives from each system. Please contact your HOA to be considered for this group.



For more information on your system, a long list of Q and As, and presentations we've given, visit www.loudounwater.org/about/servicearea and click on Community Systems.

LOUDOUN  WATER

WATER FUN FACT #1

IT TAKES 9.3 GALLONS
OF WATER TO PROCESS
ONE CAN OF FRUIT OR
VEGETABLES.

NEWS Leak

RAIN BARRELS CAN BE FUNCTIONAL AND PRETTY

Rain barrels have been around for a long time to catch rain water, but it's only recently that they have been gaining popularity as a trendy water conservation garden item. Rain barrels collect and store water from your roof that would have been stormwater runoff. You can then use this stored water for your planting beds. Rain barrel sizes vary; an average barrel might hold 40-50 gallons of rain water.

Rain barrels don't have to look like they came straight from a manufacturing plant. There are a variety of barrels from solid black to oak barrels to more fancy vessels like the one pictured here. Some even look like large stones. Popular home and garden shows have tips on how to make your own barrel, while local hardware stores or online stores offer pre-made barrels off the shelf.



Did you see this rain barrel in Grandin Road's catalog?

If you'd like to make your own, the Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District (LSWCD) partners with different localities to offer rain barrel making workshops. Learn more about LSWCD's upcoming schedule by visiting their website at www.loudounsoilandwater.com.

Why not maximize your water savings with a rain barrel for your front or back yard? Some HOA covenants may not allow rain barrels; please check with your HOA first.



EPA features rain barrels on its website.



You Tube features how-to videos.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF OUR BILL STUFFER?

Would you like to keep receiving this bill stuffer in paper format? Or would you prefer to receive it electronically? We could deliver this insert to your email inbox quarterly. Let us know what you think by sending us an email to customerservice@loudounwater.org. You can also use this address to sign up in advance if we move to a paperless format.

COMING SOON – WATER QUALITY REPORTS

Your annual Water Quality Reports will have a new look beginning this year. We're combining all of the Community Systems' reports into one booklet, and including information specific to your systems.

Look for this new format to arrive in your mailboxes sometime in June.