



The CRWP Website has a NEW Look!

The Clackamas River Water Providers website has a new look. Our old website was built on an out dated platform not allowing some customers to visit the site. The new updated website has fixed that problem and now everyone can successfully log on to the site. Though the site has a whole new look it still has all of the same information and some new things such as a resource and documents page. Go to www.clackamasproviders.org to visit our site.

CRWP Winter 2015

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Winterizing your Water Pipes Inside and Out

Initiating an annual winterization program in the Fall is a good step toward preventative pipe maintenance. We suggest your water pipes be winterized before the first freeze.

Winterizing your irrigation system:

- Turn off the water to the irrigation system at the main shut-off valve.
- Open all drain valves. Drain valves are usually located at low points of the system. If they are not opened water can collect and freeze. Remove water from system. Opening the drain valves is not usually enough. The best method to fully ensure that your system will not suffer freeze damage is to blow out the system with air. **It is NOT recommended that the average homeowner attempt to do this, it is recommended that a professional is hired.** Check your local yellow pages for listing of landscape professionals that offer winterization services.
- Wrap above ground valves and backflow prevention devices with insulating material to prevent freezing.
- Shut down the automatic controller by either putting it on “rain mode” which will keep all of the programming



information (start times, valve run times, etc.) or simply shut the power off to the controller (if you do this, you will have to reprogram your start time and settings in the spring). **Winterizing the rest of your water pipes:**

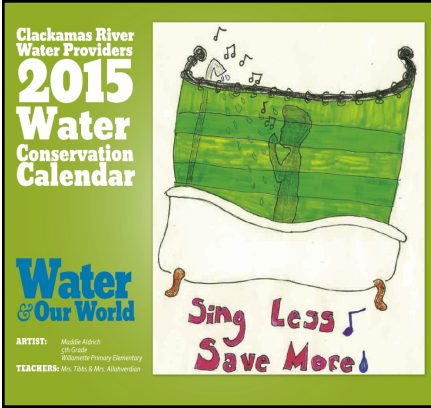
- Disconnect and drain all outdoor hoses, and protect outside pipes and faucets. In some homes, the outside faucet has a separate “shut-off” in the basement or crawl space. If you have a separate valve for outside faucets, **SHUT IT OFF.** Then go outside, disconnect the garden hose and turn **ON** the faucets to drain water from the line. Even if you do not have a separate “shut valve” for outside faucets, wrap

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2015 CRWP Water Calendars are Available!

2015 CRWP Water Calendar



Each year the Clackamas River Water Providers holds a coloring contest with local elementary schools in our service areas to create our annual Water Calendar. This year we had 18 classes at 14 different schools participate in the contest with close to 540 entries for our 2015 Calendar.

Thirteen pictures were chosen from all the entries submitted

and were used to create the calendar. Students were encouraged to create pictures depicting what they had learned about water. The theme for the 2015 calendar was "Water and Our World"

Each school that participated in the contest received a box of calendars (about 125) to give away to students and families or to use as school fundraisers.

Calendars are also available at CRWP member's offices, libraries and city halls, or by calling us at (503) 723-3511.



Protecting Our Watershed, Protecting Our Drinking Water

Unlike the City of Portland's protected Bull Run watershed, the Clackamas is a multi-use watershed with various users and ownership throughout the watershed.

Each time it rains or snows, pollutants wash off the land and flow untreated into nearby surface and groundwater sources. Because all water in a watershed is connected, activities in one part of the watershed often affect other areas. A healthy watershed stores and filters water, stabilizes banks, provides shade and habitat for fish and other aquatic life.

Human activities such as construction, timber harvesting, live stock management, fertilizer and pesticide use, if not performed responsibly can degrade

water quality. In addition impervious surfaces such as parking lots, roads, and roofs carry pollutants directly to our streams and natural water ways. Therefore, the combination of cars, homes, people, and animals in the watershed makes pollution from stormwater a serious threat to our river's water quality.

While good water quality may be difficult to see, a rich variety of plants and animals, from aquatic insects to cutthroat trout, indicate a healthy watershed and clean water.

We all play a role in preserving our vital drinking water resource. Whether you're a resident, business

Protecting Our Watershed, (Cont.)

owner, employee or farmer, you can make a difference. Protecting and conserving our drinking water plays a key role in making the best overall use of the precious resource we share.

Key concerns in the Clackamas Basin are:

Naturally spawning anadromous salmonids – the Clackamas River supports spring and fall Chinook salmon, Coho salmon, Cutthroat trout, and summer and winter Steelhead.

Land use – (agricultural, timber harvesting and urban uses) practices such as removing woody debris from stream channels, clearcutting, removing streamside vegetation, withdrawing water for irrigation, and road building can increase sediment loads and water temperatures.

Urban Growth – Increased growth in the watershed can have negative water quality impacts due to increase impervious surfaces and increase stormwater runoff.

Water Quality – Significant portions of the Clackamas River and its tributaries currently do not meet state water quality standards for temperature and bacteria

Water Supply – Water withdrawals for people must be balanced with maintaining sufficient in-stream flows to support fish.

Protecting the Clackamas River is one of the top priorities of the Clackamas River Water Providers.

As Clackamas County continues to grow, so does the demand for high quality water. Conserving and protecting the Clackamas River will play a key role in making the best use of this precious resource we share.

What Can You Do?

- Practice water efficient landscaping and/or naturescaping and install a raingarden to allow water from your property to filter into the ground.
- Prevent stormwater runoff by decreasing impervious surfaces.
- Restore streamside and riparian areas by planting native trees and shrubs.
- Properly dispose of, or recycle, motor oil, antifreeze, paint, solvents and other toxic materials.
- Wash your car on the lawn and prevent car wash water from entering storm drains.



Reduce or eliminate your pesticide and fertilizer use to prevent chemical runoff. For more information [click here](#).

- Clean up after your pet. Fence livestock away from water areas to protect stream banks, reduce erosion and protect water quality. For more information [click here](#).
- Inspect and properly maintain septic systems. For more information [click here](#).
- [Conserve water](#), especially in the summer months when river flows are at their lowest. The more water we save, the more water we can keep in the river for fish.
- Get involved! Attend a Clackamas River Water Providers, [city council, or water board meeting](#).
- Call your [water provider](#) for more information. Join our local watershed council, the Clackamas River Basin Council.

For more information on how to protect our watershed, contact the CRWP [Water Resource Manager](#).

Did You Know?

- **The Clackamas River watershed covers 940 square miles and the river itself is 82.7 miles long.**
- **On your drinking water bill you are billed per unit. One unit = 100 cubic feet = 748 gallons.**
- **It takes less than one part per million of chlorine in your drinking water to keep it free of unwanted germs and bacteria.**
- **CRWP member Oak Lodge Water District was founded in the year 1922.**

and/or cover **ALL** the outside faucets or hose bibs. Remember to disconnect garden hoses from the faucets. Otherwise, a single hard overnight freeze can burst either the faucet or the pipe it is connected to.

- If you have water pipes in unheated areas such as the garage or a crawl space under the house, wrap the water pipes before temperatures plummet. Visit your local hardware or building supply stores for pipe insulation and wrapping materials.



- Locate the master water shut-off valve to your home. It may be near the water heater or the washing machine. More likely it's where the water line comes into your house from the street. If a pipe bursts anywhere in the house – kitchen, bath, basement, or crawl space – this valve turns it **OFF**. So find it now and paint it a bright color or hang a tag on it. Be sure everyone in the family knows where it is and what it does.

- Seal off access doors, vents and cracks. Repair broken basement windows. Winter winds whistling through overlooked openings can quickly freeze exposed water pipes. But don't plug air vents your furnace or water heater needs for good combustion.

- When winter weather is especially cold, open the cupboard doors beneath your sinks. This will allow warm air to circulate around the pipes. Allow water to trickle from faucets with pipes underneath your home or near outside walls that may be exposed to extreme weather conditions. Over a 24 hour period this will cost less than 15 cents per faucet – much less than it costs to repair broken pipes!

- And last, but not least, **HAVE YOUR PLUMBER'S TELEPHONE NUMBER HANDY**. During an extended cold spell, your pipes might freeze despite the best precautions.

For more information and tips on how to use water wisely contact Clackamas River Water Providers at 503-723-3511 or e-mail christine@clackamasproviders.org.

6 Water Saving Tips

1. Done with your holiday baking? Use your leftover food coloring to check your toilet for leaks.
2. Let your dishwasher do the work. The average dishwasher uses about 10 gallons per load. Many kitchen faucets use the same amount of water by running for just four minutes.
3. Thawing food? Use the microwave, a bowl of water, or place it in fridge overnight instead of running the tap. You'll save about two gallons of water for each minute the faucet does not run.
4. Freeze the grease instead pouring it down the drain and letting the water run. Keep your kitchen sink draining well this holiday season by pouring all cooking grease into a can, freezing it, and then tossing the frozen contents into the trash.
5. Using one glass all day will mean fewer dishes to do. Especially if everyone joins in!
6. Scrape instead of pre-rinsing. Save yourself up to 20 gallons of water by scraping food off your dishes instead of pre-rinsing them. [ENERGYSTAR qualified dishwashers](#) and today's detergents are designed to do the cleaning so you don't have to. If your dirty dishes sit overnight, use your dishwasher's rinse feature. It uses a fraction of the water needed to hand rinse.