

Tap Water is an intricate part of our lives.

It is hard to imagine a day without using water. We brush our teeth, take showers, wash and cook food with it, but tap water also provides benefits for so many other things.

You only have to go without it for a short period to be reminded of its importance. Without water, our lives are not only inconveniently interrupted but our public health is also threatened.

The future of water requires us to think smart, use water wisely, and recognize the limits of this valuable resource.



Do you know where our drinking water originates?

The Clackamas River is our water source. It supplies you, and nearly 400,000 other people in Clackamas County, with high quality drinking water.

For more information on the Clackamas River Water Provider Members Public Drinking Water:

Clackamas River Water Providers, www.clackamasproviders.org

City of Estacada Water Department,
www.cityofestacada.org/utilities.waterdistribution

Clackamas River Water (District), www.crwater.com

Oak Lodge Water District, www.oaklodgewater.org

City of Gladstone Water Department,
www.ci.gladstone.or.us/publicworks.html

Sunrise Water Authority, www.sunrisewater.com

South Fork Water Board, www.sfwb.org

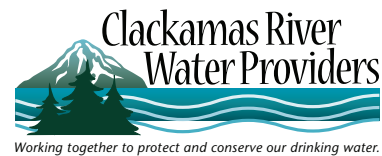
- *City of Oregon City Water Department*,
www.orcity.org/publicworks/water-division
- *City of West Linn Water Department*,
www.westlinnoregon.gov/publicworks/water

City of Lake Oswego Public Works Department,
www.ci.oswego.or.us/publicworks/water

Other Resources

EPA web site "Water Quality", www.water.epa.gov/drink/

EPA web site "Conservation", www.epa.gov/greeningepa/water/



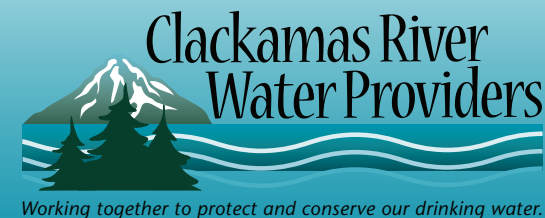
or contact the

Clackamas River Water Providers
Public Education and Conservation Program Coordinator
at **503-723-3511** or email
christine@clackamasproviders.org

Content taken from American Water Works Association "The Value of Tap Water" 2012



Do you know the value of your tap water?



How often do you think about your tap water?

Probably not often. Out of site, out of mind, service on demand, 24/7/365 days per year and it's as easy as turning on your tap. But did you know that this service is at risk?

Much of today's public water systems were built more than 50 years ago and little has been done to rebuild or replace this aging infrastructure. Because we've 'kicked that can down the road' for so many years, we now face a large problem of financing and rebuilding those systems before they fail.

The money for operating and maintaining your water system largely comes from rates. Unfortunately, those rates have not included the full cost of replacing the existing infrastructure. And long gone are the days that grants or tax monies are made available to solve this growing problem. This is why the cost of water is rising.

In Clackamas County water remains relatively inexpensive. Delivered to you at under a penny per gallon, tap water is one of the best values in today's market.



We have arrived at a turning point

Because our water infrastructure has lasted so long, we haven't had to worry about the expense of replacing it. However, many of our pipes, pumps, and reservoirs are in need of upgrades or replacement now or in the near future.

Therefore, the choice we face is to either adopt strategies to renew our water infrastructure, or accept the erosion over time of reliable water service.

If we slowly begin to move toward rate structures and financing plans that reflect the full cost of public drinking water service, we will avoid rate shock in the years ahead.

We are all beneficiaries of this magnificent network of treatment plants, pump stations, pipes and water reservoirs that were handed down to us by generations before.

Year-to-year deferral of utility infrastructure renewal is the major financial challenge facing our water utilities.

The Value of Public Drinking Water

Protecting Public Health

The first obligation of the Clackamas River Water Providers members is to provide water that is safe for consumption. In a world where 3 million people die each year from preventable water-borne diseases, our water systems allow you to drink from any public tap with a high assurance of safety.

- A safe water supply is critical to protecting our public's health.
- Our community water supplies are tested every day. Tap water undergoes far more frequent testing than bottled water.
- Clackamas River Water Providers members monitor for more than 100 contaminants and must meet close to 90 regulations for water safety and quality.
- The water standards that we must meet are among the world's most stringent.
- Without our modern water systems, diseases such as cholera and dysentery would be part of everyday life.

Supporting Our Economy

A safe, reliable water supply is central to the economic success of our communities.

- Public drinking water is critical to the day-to-day operations of businesses in Clackamas County, and to the viability of new commercial enterprises or residential developments.
- Businesses take into consideration the availability and quality of water when determining where to locate their offices or manufacturing facilities.
- A scarcity of water resources can hold up development - commercial or residential - placing a strain on our local economies.

Quality of Life

Here in Clackamas County tap water is more than a convenience; it is central to our everyday lives. Any measure of a successful society is in some way related to the access of clean safe water. Otherwise...

- How would we brush our teeth, shower or flush our toilets?
- How would we rinse our produce, clean dishes, wash clothes, water plants and landscapes, or wash our cars?

Fire Protection

Well-maintained water systems are critical in protecting our communities from the threat of fire.

- In our communities, water flowing to fire hydrants and home faucets comes from the same system of water mains, pumps and storage tanks.
- A water system that provides reliable water at a high pressure and volume can be the difference between a manageable fire and an urban inferno.
- Firefighters are the primary users of fire hydrants, but your public water provider is responsible for maintaining the hydrants. Hydrant maintenance is supported by the money generated through your water bills.

When you consider the critical needs addressed by water service, public drinking water will always be a tremendous value. In fact, it will be a bargain. You simply cannot put a price on a service that delivers public health, quality of life, fire protection, and economic development.

