

MAY 2021

PINERY PIPELINE



From your board of directors

Yep, another article on the Pinery District installing an electronic module on your water meter this year for you to be able to monitor your water usage. It's actually called Eye On Water (EOW) but I'll refer to it as keep an eye on your water. Meaning it is for you, the customer to keep an eye on your water usage. It is a simple computer or phone application that once installed will give you instant access to your water usage. You can check your water usage for the past months, weeks, days and down to a few minutes' block of time. It is not instantaneous usage but is current up to 2:00am the previous night. Data is downloaded every night to a data server.

I installed the Eye on Water module about three years ago when I was updating my landscaping and wanted to make sure I was balancing all the sprinkler zones as best I could. Also, I was very curious in the amount of water I was putting on each zone, each water cycle. The program was great for this task.

One of the main features of Eye on Water is the leak detection function. This feature can be set up to give you a text or an e-mail to notify you if the module detects a continuous leak. You set the parameters for the size of leak you want notified of.

A few years back I got a notification I had a small leak. It was about this time of year when we start our sprinkler systems back up. It wasn't a big leak, only about 4 gallons per day. I turned off my sprinkler valve and the leak was still there! Hum. I shut off the water coming into the house and the leak stopped. I isolated all the toilets. Nope. Leak still occurring. I checked all the sinks. Nothing. I finally isolated the leak to some cold-water lines running from the basement to some upper bathrooms. Luckily, I remembered my elderly father had just left from a visit and I missed the water barely running in his tub/shower combination. What a relief! No remodel necessary. Although, that would happen a few months later. (by choice!)

If you wonder how to check for a leak if Eye on Water data only downloaded every night, there is a little red triangle leak detector built into every water meter. If this is turning, water is going through the meter. They are very sensitive and can detect a very small leak. A great topic for another article along with knowing where your house water isolation valve is.



Terry Franklin,
Director of Pinery Water and
Wastewater District Board of Directors

HYDRANT FLUSHING

Crews will be flushing beginning in March, Monday through Friday, 7 AM to 3 PM with plans to wrap up by May 15. For questions or concerns, please call the District office at 303-841-2797 or email us at info@pinerywater.com.



Please join us at our District Office for our monthly held Board Meetings at 6:00pm on the 3rd Wednesday of each month.

Upcoming Board Meetings will still be held digitally at 6:00pm on Wednesday, May 19, 2021

(*please see meeting notice for information on joining the meeting by internet.)

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

We will be closed on May, 31 2021 in observance of Memorial Day. We will resume normal hours Tuesday, June 1.

Please call our After Hours line at (303)841-2797 ext 9 for emergencies.

Leak Size	Gallons Per Day	Gallons Per Month
 A dripping leak consumes:	15 gallons	450 gallons
 A 1/32 in. leak consumes:	264 gallons	7,920 gallons
 A 1/16 in. leak consumes:	943 gallons	28,300 gallons
 A 1/8 in. leak consumes:	3,806 gallons	114,200 gallons
 A 1/4 in. leak consumes:	15,226 gallons	456,800 gallons
 A 1/2 in. leak consumes:	60,900 gallons	1,827,000 gallons

WHY IS MY WATER BILL SO HIGH?

An unusually high-water bill is most often caused by a leak or change in water use.

Some common causes of high-water bills include:

- A leaking toilet, or a toilet that continues to run after being flushed.
- A dripping faucet; a faucet drip can waste 20 gallons of water a day or more.
- Filling or topping off a swimming pool or hot tub.
- Watering the lawn, new grass, or trees; also check for an open hose spigot.
- Humidifiers attached to the furnace that are improperly adjusted or not working correctly.
- Kids home for summer vacations or school holidays; guests.
- Water-cooled air conditioners.

- A broken water pipe or obvious leak; check the pipes in the basement or crawlspace; the water heater could also be leaking.
- Water softener problems – cycles continuously.
- Running the water to avoid freezing water pipes during cold weather.

The most common one that is seen is a leaking toilet. Below you can find an assessment you can do on your toilet to see if you have a leak.

Do-it-yourself Toilet Assessment

First check for the most common leak: a deteriorated or defected flush valve (flapper) ball at the bottom of the toilet tank. If it does not make a tight seal water will leak into the toilet bowl. To check for a leaky toilet, follow these steps:

1. Take the lid off the tank behind the bowl, flush the toilet, and then wait for it to fully refill.
2. Put a few drops of dye or a colored dye tablet (food coloring works well) in the tank.
3. Wait at least 20 minutes; longer if you suspect it is a small leak.
4. If there is any color in the toilet bowl, there is a leak.

The second most common type of leak has to do with an improperly adjusted or broken fill (ballcock) valve. To check for this, take the lid off the toilet tank, flush, and see if water is draining into the overflow tubes when the tank is full.

(Read more about leaks from the original site: <https://www.cityofdavison.org/DocumentCenter/View/402/Common-Causes-of-High-Water-Bills?bidId=>; How much a leak can add to usage: <http://www.precision-locating.com/waterleaks.html>)

GARDEN IN A BOX | PLANT A NEW PERSPECTIVE

Maybe you participated in last year's Garden in a Box program. Or maybe you have decided that this is the year you'll finally get your yard in shape – but how can you get the gorgeous, colorful garden you've always wanted without paying the professional price tag and doubling your water bill? Easy. With just a click, you can order a xeric (low water) garden kit that's ready to pick up and plant in May. These pre-designed kits are tailored to Colorado soil, and the simple plant-by-number maps take the guesswork out of buying and planting. Plus, the garden kits can help you save around 1,000 gallons of water compared to a traditional grass lawn (not to mention savings on your water bill). There is a Garden in A Box to fit your budget. **Gardens sell out quickly** - visit ResourceCentral.org/Gardens and receive \$25 discount for being a Pinery Water and Wastewater District customer. Order your water-wise Garden in A Box today! **If you have any questions or want more information about Garden in a Box, go to ResourceCentral.org/Gardens or call 303-999-3820 x 222.**



SLOW THE FLOW – FREE SPRINKLER SYSTEM AUDITS

Again this year, the Pinery Water District and Resource Central are teaming up to provide a free sprinkler consultation to our customers. Resource Central technicians will run a few tests to check your sprinklers' efficiency and diagnose any problems your system might have. At the end of your consultation, which takes about 75 minutes, you will receive a customized watering schedule designed to reduce water usage and keep your lawn healthy and beautiful all summer long! **Simply call (303) 999-3824 or sign up at ResourceCentral.org/Sprinklers. Stay green, save blue.**



Pinery Water and Wastewater District Contact Information:

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(303) 841-2797

www.pinerywater.com
information@pinerywater.com

For after-hours emergencies,
(303) 841-2797 EXT 9