

Water Lines

MOUNT PLEASANT WATERWORKS

November/December 2012



MountPleasantWaterworks.com

Keep Pipes Clean with Proper Disposal of Grease and Oil

Properly Discard Cooking Oils and Fats

When poured down a kitchen sink, grease from cooking oils and fats cool and adhere to pipes like glue. That's bad for a home or business owner, who ends up with clogged drains and an expensive plumbing job.

Keep Drains Clean to Keep Costs Down



The Commission spends more than \$25,000 yearly to respond to grease blockages in the collection system.

Much of the grease residue from home and restaurant plumbing makes its way through the wastewater collection system, where it clogs vital pump stations. Ultimately, the residue ends up at the wastewater treatment plant and drives up operating costs.

Grease also causes undesirable bacterial growth. These bacteria impede the efficient treatment plant process.

Kitchen Culprits

- Cooking oils— especially unsaturated frying fat— is the number one cause of wastewater backups in homes and food service businesses.
- Meat fats, such as bacon grease and drippings from chicken, turkey, and beef, have the same impact on wastewater systems as cooking oil.

The DO's and DON'T'S of Cooking Oil and Grease Disposal

- NEVER put grease or used cooking oil down the drain.
- DO place grease in a safe container and store it in the refrigerator so it will solidify. Then discard the container in household garbage.



Never pour contaminants such as household chemicals, pesticides, gasoline, oil, paint, or industrial products down the sink or into the storm drain.

Check Your Home For Leaks

How can you check for leaks?

You can monitor your water usage at the meter. The style may vary from home to home, but all meters have devices called registers that measure the flow of water as it passes through the meter. One revolution of the sweep hand equals ten gallons of water through the meter. The leak detector triangle identifies water activity on the register and provides a visual indication of water activity and/or leakage. Here's how you can check your meter:

- (1) Turn off all faucets in your house and verify that no water is being used.
- (2) Make a mark where the needle is on the glass cover over the meter register.
- (3) Write down the reading. Don't use any water for at least fifteen minutes.
- (4) After fifteen minutes, check to see if the flow detector needle has moved at all. If it has, then you have a possible leak somewhere.
- (5) If the leak is from the meter to your house, it is your responsibility to repair.

Please visit

www.mountpleasantwaterworks.com

for a detailed guide of **How to Monitor Your Meter.**

GO PAPERLESS,

Sign Up For Electronic Billing This Month
Want to reduce your incoming mail and help keep your water bill at an affordable rate? Electronic billing through Mount Pleasant Waterworks' Easy Pay system is easy to use. After you sign up you will receive a monthly email when your bill is available to be viewed. Electronic billing saves MPW money and that keeps your water and wastewater bill the second lowest in the tri-county area.



Operations Challenge 2012: Mount Pleasant Waterworks' Team, Liquid Force, Takes 2nd at National Competition

Operations Challenge is conducted each year in conjunction with Water Environment Federation's (WEF) Technical Exhibition and Conference. This year's Challenge included teams from the US, Canada and Argentina. It was held October 1-3, 2012 in New Orleans and showcased the skills of some of the best wastewater collection and treatment personnel in the world. There were thirty-nine teams sponsored by their respective WEF Member Association. Sponsored by the Water Environment Association of South Carolina was state champion Mount Pleasant Waterworks' Liquid Force. This was the second year that South Carolina had a team represented in the Division One competition.

The competition combines five equally weighted skill tests (events) required for the operation and maintenance of wastewater treatment facilities, their collection systems and laboratories—all vital to the protection of public health and the environment.

South Carolina and Mount Pleasant Waterworks were represented well and



finished in First Place in the Pumps Competition and Second Place overall. Mount Pleasant Waterworks. Liquid Force is coached by David Niesse and includes members Greg Hill, Troy Newton, Tom Kohler, and Allan Clum.

The MPW Commission Newsletter, Water Lines, is produced in-house and mailed to customers bi-monthly with bills and statements. Current and past issues can also be viewed and downloaded from our website.



Fall Preparation Tips

When cool temperatures prevail throughout the day (mid 60's), it's time to:

- Turn off your irrigation system. Watering during fall and winter months isn't necessary since most lawn grasses, especially centipede, go dormant.
- Cover your swimming pool. Even during fall and winter months, uncovered pools lose large amounts of water to evaporation. An uncovered pool can lose more than 1,500 gallons of water each month, depending on weather conditions, sun exposure and water temperature. Covers help reduce water loss by as much as 90-percent and many brands also provide excellent safety ratings.
- Drain and insulate your water heater. Insulated water heaters reduce energy costs. If you drain your water heater, you will get rid of the sediment that can reduce the life of the heating elements and improve overall efficiency.



Do you know how to turn off your water service?

If you leave your home for any length of time during winter months, you should shut off the water supply to your house in the event of freezing weather.

Your water can be shut off at the cutoff valve, a wheel-type valve normally located under the water faucet outside, 18 inches below the ground and 2 feet from the house. It will usually be in line with your water meter (located near the edge of your property line near the street).

MPW Operations Center
1619 Rifle Range Road
Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
884-9626 (phone)
customerservice@mpwonline.com
Email requests will be processed
the following business day.

In observance of the Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays, the MPW Operations Center will be closed on the following days:

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25

If you have a water or wastewater emergency, call 884-9626. Our answering service will page on-call personnel.

Happy Holidays

New Bill Design

In an effort to provide customers with a clear understanding of MPW's bills, staff is currently working to develop a new design and layout of your monthly bill.

Stay tuned for information regarding this change.

Need a Speaker for your Home Owners Association or Community Group?

Mount Pleasant Waterworks' Commissioners and staff would enjoy the opportunity of presenting and answering questions.

To schedule a speaker for your group, please contact Dionna Ebeling at 843.884.9626 or debeling@mpwonline.com