



# Water Lines

MOUNT PLEASANT WATERWORKS

JANUARY 2009

## Proper Maintenance Necessary for Safe Use of Home Water Treatment Devices

Since your drinking water meets or exceeds the Safe Drinking Water Act standards, MPW does not consider home water treatment devices necessary, and does not recommend them. However, since many of our customers may be using them, we want to make sure you know how to use these devices safely.

### What are point-of-use (POU) devices?

POU water treatment devices are designed to treat small amounts of drinking water for use in the home. These devices can sit on the counter, attach to the faucet, or be installed under the sink. Customers who use home water treatment devices should check their filters often to ensure proper operation. If not used correctly, or improperly maintained, these devices may deteriorate a customer's water quality.

This deterioration typically occurs when home water filters remove the residual chlorine. Chlorine is used to disinfect the water. Without proper chlorine levels, bacteria may grow inside the water filter.

### Read and follow owner manuals carefully.

As with any appliance, it is important to follow the manufacturer or dealer recommendations regarding installation, operation, maintenance, and replacement of components of the POU water-treatment device. Manufacturer recommendations vary, but many suggest replacing filters after 500 gallons of treatment or every six months.

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Mount Pleasant Waterworks is considering revising the Commission's current adjustment policy to 1) limit the number of adjustments to one occurrence per calendar year, excluding the one annual pool fill adjustment currently permitted; and 2) provide management with the ability to adjust late, delinquent and reconnection fees based on occurrence circumstances.

- DATE:** Monday, January 26, 2008
- TIME:** 5:30 p.m.
- PLACE:** MPW Operations Center  
1619 Rifle Range Road

All interested customers are urged to attend. The Regular Commission Meeting will follow at 6:00 p.m.

## MPW Will Begin Charging For Returned ACH Transactions

The MPW Commission voted to approve an amendment to its Cost Recovery Policy regarding returned checks or Automated Clearinghouse (ACH) transactions.

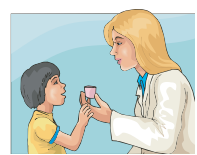
Beginning this month MPW will begin charging a \$25 fee for returned ACH (debit card) transactions, and customers will be allowed no more than three bad checks or returned ACH transactions in a 365 day period. After that, no personal checks or bank drafts will be accepted, and a notice will be inserted in the customer's bill statement requiring payment by cash, cash equivalent (money order or cashier's check), or a valid credit card.

If you have any questions, please contact Customer Service at 884-9626 or email [customerservice@mpwonline.com](mailto:customerservice@mpwonline.com).

## CWS Temporarily Discontinues Water Fluoridation

Charleston Water System (CWS) has discontinued the addition of fluoride to drinking water temporarily as it upgrades its fluoridation equipment.

This does not affect water quality, but since 70% of MPW's water supply comes from CWS and the remaining 30% has less than 0.2 parts per million (ppm) of fluoride, you may wish to talk to your dentist about including supplemental fluoride in your dental treatment until CWS resumes fluoridation in the summer of 2009.



## REMINDER! New Rates Take Effect This Month

As of January 1st, water and wastewater volumetric rates increased by 2.4%. The wastewater basic facility charge increased to \$6.94. These adjustments amount to about a \$1.08 for the average household using 5,000 gallons per month.

## Winter Water Trivia

1. At which of the following temperatures does water spontaneously freeze?

- a. 18°F            b. 32°F  
c. 0°F             d. -40°F

2. Which of the following is not affected by wind chill?

- a. person            b. dog  
c. car radiator      d. bird

3. What is the difference between sleet, hail, and freezing rain?

4. True or False. It must be 32°F or colder for it to snow.

5. On the average, one inch of rain is equivalent to how many inches of snow?

- a. 10 inches        b. 1 inch  
c. 5 inches         d. a foot

6. Can it snow from clear skies?

7. What is more hazardous to trees and power lines?

- a. One inch of wet snow  
b. One inch of ice

*The answers are in the far right column.*

## Winter Trivia Facts

**El Nino** refers to a warming of the Pacific Equatorial waters and a slackening of the Trade Winds over those waters.

**La Nina** refers to a cooling of the Pacific Equatorial waters and an increase in the Trade Winds over those waters. It is not uncommon for La Nina to follow a strong El Nino.

*These and other interesting trivia and facts can be found at <http://www.erh.noaa.gov/lwx/winter/TRIVIA.htm>.*

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

## Save Money on Your Water Bill

### Reduce Hot Water Use

You can lower your water heating costs by using and wasting less hot water in your home.

### Fix Leaks First

- ◆ You can significantly reduce hot water use by simply repairing leaks in fixtures—faucets and showerheads—or pipes. A leak of one drip per second can cost \$1 per month.
- ◆ If your water heater's tank leaks, you need a new water heater.

### Lower the thermostat on your water heater.

- ◆ For each 10°F reduction in water temperature, you can save between 3%–5% in energy costs.
- ◆ Although some manufacturers set water heater thermostats at 140°F, most households usually only require them set at 120°F. Water heated at 140°F also poses a safety hazard—scalding. (Dishwashers without booster heaters are an exception—check the operating instructions.)
- ◆ Reducing your water temperature to 120°F also slows mineral buildup and corrosion in your water heater and pipes. This helps your water heater last longer and operate at its maximum efficiency. (Flush the water heater every six to twelve months to remove sediment from the bottom of the tank.)

### Other Water and Energy Savers

- ◆ Insulate the water heater, as well as the hot-water pipes within a foot or so from the tank.
- ◆ Switch off the hot-water system when going away for more than two weeks.
- ◆ Install a timer and use off-peak power for electric water heaters: If you have an electric water heater, you can save an additional 5%–12% of energy by installing a timer that turns it off at night when you don't use hot water and/or during your utility's peak demand times.
- ◆ Install low-flow fixtures. You can purchase some quality, low-flow fixtures for around \$10 to \$20 apiece and achieve water savings of 25–60%.

### MPW Operations Center

1619 Rifle Range Road

Monday - Friday • 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

884-9626 • 884-4858 (fax)

[customerservice@mpwonline.com](mailto:customerservice@mpwonline.com)

Email requests will be processed the following business day.



## Quick News and Notes

### ANSWERS to Winter Trivia Questions

1. **Answer: d.** Ice always melts at 32°F, but water does not always freeze at 32°F. It must freeze onto something. However, at -40°F, water freezes spontaneously. If you poured a cup of water out of a window with the air temperature outside at -40°F, the water would freeze before it struck the ground.

2. **Answer: c.** Wind chill is the combination of wind and temperature and is based on the rate of heat loss from exposed skin such as that of a person or animal. As the wind increases, heat is carried away from the body at an accelerated rate, driving the body temperature down. Wind chill has no effect on cars or other objects.

3. **Answer:** Hail is a chunk or stone of ice dropped from a thunderstorm. Sleet is frozen rain. Freezing rain is liquid rain that freezes to a surface such as the road or a tree.

4. **Answer: False.** It has been known to snow with temperatures in the mid 40's. Temperatures are below 32°F up in the clouds where the snow is forming.

5. **Answer: a.** 10 inches of snow melts down to about an inch of liquid rain.

6. **Answer: Yes.** Ice crystals sometimes fall from clear skies when temperatures are in the single digits or colder.

7. **Answer: b.** An inch of ice is heavier than wet snow and is hazardous enough to cause power lines and trees to come down.