



Waterlines

AUGUST 2021
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF MEDFORD WATER COMMISSION



Stay tuned for these coming attractions...

Coming soon, you'll see a new look for Medford Water Commission! Above is a sneak peek of the new logo we'll be unveiling as part of a larger branding effort to connect with the customers we serve.

Also, stay tuned for more information on the resumption of our FREE tours of Big Butte Springs and Medford Water Commission facilities! During these tours, participants spend the day learning about the history of our water, where it comes from, and how it's treated.

We're here for you



Contact us:

(541) 774-2430
customerservice@medfordwater.org

medfordwater.org

200 South Ivy Street - Room 177
Medford, Oregon 97501

8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday - Friday

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CUSTOMER COOPERATION HELPS MAINTAIN CHLORINE SUPPLY DURING SHORTAGE

Medford Water Commission would like to thank our customers for cooperating with the voluntary water reductions that were put in place on June 17, 2021, as we worked through a nationwide chlorine (sodium hypochlorite) shortage.

The situation has improved, but has not been resolved, and we continue to monitor a variety of factors, such as demand for water (higher demand means treating more water, which means using more chlorine).

The efforts of our communities during

the first two weeks of this challenging event were measurable, reducing demand by 10-15% of typical usage. However, following those initial two weeks, water usage increased again.

Considering this rise in water demand and the fact that our region is still in drought, it is all the more important to continue to use water wisely. Please be mindful in how you use water this summer, and remember it is a valuable resource that should not be wasted.

For easy ways to reduce water use and minimize water waste, check out the article below.



WHEN IN DROUGHT, ALWAYS USE YOUR WATERSENSE!

The drought in our region has many of us thinking about how we use water in our everyday lives, and what we can do to preserve water resources.

In partnership with WaterSense, a voluntary program sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Medford Water Commission offers several programs and tips to help our community use water efficiently and conserve throughout the year. Since water usage triples in our area during the summer months due to the increase in lawn and landscape watering, let's focus on what you can do outdoors:

- **Install a WaterSense smart sprinkler controller.** Apply for a rebate when you replace an older sprinkler controller with a WaterSense labeled smart controller. Residential customers are eligible for a \$200 rebate; HOAs and commercial facilities are eligible for a \$250 rebate.

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- **Take advantage of our sprinkler system evaluations.** Call 541-774-2435 to schedule a sprinkler system evaluation for FREE! This program is offered during the summer months and consists of a comprehensive assessment of the design, operation, and management of your sprinkler system.





HYDRANT DEVICE PROTECTS AND PROVIDES ACCESS TO WATER

Contractors often need a non-potable water supply at their worksite for construction purposes, and are allowed to use public fire hydrants as a temporary water source after applying for a permit through the Commission's office.

Once approved, a meter with a backflow prevention assembly is installed to provide access and ensure that contaminated water is not accidentally put back into the water system.

To prevent unauthorized access and vandalism, which can be both damaging and costly, an antitamper device that can only be accessed by the permitholder is installed over the meter and backflow assembly. The antitamper device consists of a large tube, painted bright blue, locked to the side of the hydrant (see picture below).

If you see water being used from a hydrant without a meter device, it may be unauthorized. Call (541) 774-2430 to let us know.



WHEN IN DROUGHT, CONT'D.

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- **Adapt watering to the season.** If you don't have a smart controller, adjust sprinkler timers at least once a month throughout the summer to account for plants' changing water needs. Doing this can significantly reduce water use. Check out medfordwater.org or call the Lawn Watering Infoline at 541-774-2460 for weekly updates on watering.
- **Water at the best time.** When using an automatic irrigation system, water between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. to avoid losing water to wind and evaporation.
- **Know how often to water.** It's best not to water every day. Less frequent, deep watering will encourage deeper root growth and plants won't become stressed as quickly when the weather is hot.
- **Make adjustments.** If you have a dry area in your landscape, apply



extra water manually with a hose instead of running the sprinkler system longer. You could also add a sprinkler or emitter to the dry area.

- **Cycle and soak.** If you are watering on a slope or if pooling occurs after only a short time, then consider breaking up total watering time into two cycles separated by an hour.
- **Cover the pool and fix all pool leaks.** Saving water outdoors is not limited to your landscape! Maintaining your pool can use just as much water as a lawn because of evaporation. Warm water evaporates more rapidly than cool water, so use your pool heater less and/or use a pool cover.

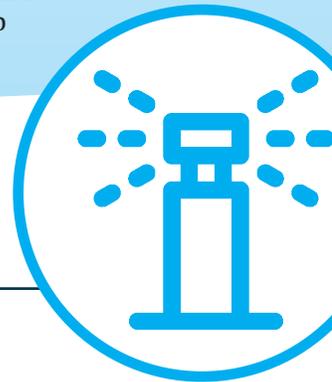
We'll go over what you can do indoors with WaterSense certified products in our November newsletter. Until then, you can go to epa.gov/watersense to learn more, or find an additional tip below.



AUGUST WATER-WISE TIP Select and Inspect Your Sprinklers Properly

Select sprinkler heads and nozzles that apply water uniformly to the target area, and be sure to inspect your sprinkler heads regularly to make sure they are not obstructed or watering onto pavement.

Go to medfordwater.org for more water-wise tips!



Medford Water Commission

Established in 1922 by the City of Medford and governed by the Board of Water Commissioners.

Commissioners

Jason Anderson • Bob Strosser • Daniel Bunn
John Dailey • Mike Smith

General Manager

Brad Taylor

Serving Medford and Partner Cities:

Central Point, Eagle Point, Jacksonville,
Phoenix, Talent and Ashland*

Also serving:

White City area and the Elk City and
Charlotte Ann Water Districts

*Emergency inertie only

