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# the SOOS CREEK

## CON NECTION

[www.sooscreek.com](http://www.sooscreek.com)

May/June 2016

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### LEAD AND DRINKING WATER

Recently, there has been a lot of media attention about lead in drinking water. Soos Creek Water & Sewer District (SCWSD) purchases your water from Seattle Public Utilities (SPU). SPU's drinking water sources do not contain lead. However, lead can leach into water from home plumbing systems built with lead-based solder, brass fixtures, or some types of zinc coatings used on galvanized pipes and fittings.

#### REDUCE YOUR LEAD EXPOSURE

There are a few simple steps you can take in the home to reduce the risk of lead in your drinking water:

- ◆ If water has been standing in pipes for over 2 hours, flush out the pipes by running the tap until you feel a temperature change before using for drinking or cooking, usually thirty seconds to three minutes. To save water, use the water you flush out for watering plants or doing dishes.
- ◆ Always draw drinking and cooking water from the cold water tap - - lead dissolves more quickly in hot water.
- ◆ Never make baby formula or other drinks or food for children from the hot water tap. Start with water taken from the cold water faucet (after flushing) and warm it if necessary.
- ◆ If you are making plumbing changes, be sure to select low-lead or no lead fixtures. As of January 2014, a new federal law is in effect, reducing the allowable amount of lead in plumbing fixtures from 8 percent to 0.25 percent. Manufacturers are already offering faucets that meet the new standard.

For more information, go to [www.sooscreek.com/services/water-quality](http://www.sooscreek.com/services/water-quality).

### CROSS CONNECTIONS AND BACKFLOW

SCWSD works hard to deliver safe drinking water to your home; however, improper changes to or misuse of your plumbing system inside your home may contaminate your drinking water and cause problems for the District. **REMEMBER:** If you don't want to drink it . . . then don't connect it to your water system.

#### What is a cross connection?

A plumbing cross connection is an actual or potential connection between a potable (drinkable) and non-potable water supply that may pollute water inside your home or business - a serious public health hazard. Examples of non-potable water that could contaminate the potable water supply include yard or garden irrigation systems and boilers used for residential and commercial heating. A cross connection in your home or business could not only contaminate your drinking water but also your neighbors' through backflow.

#### What is backflow?

"Backflow" is water flowing in the opposite direction from that intended; for example, into the water mains from your house rather than into your house from the mains. This could occur due to sudden loss of water pressure in the District's mains, which creates a siphoning effect that draws the water from your home or business back into the water mains. Backflow, combined with an uncontrolled cross connection, can contaminate the public water system. Backflow assemblies prevent this contamination.

#### Testing dates for backflow prevention assemblies—Annually

Customers with irrigation systems or other actual or potential cross-connections are required by State law to have their backflow prevention assemblies tested on an annual basis. District customers with backflow prevention assemblies can have their tests completed by a certified Backflow Assembly Tester (BAT) and reports submitted to the District.

For more information regarding cross connection, go to our website at [www.sooscreek.com/services/water-quality](http://www.sooscreek.com/services/water-quality) or contact us at 253-630-9900.

## Summer Water Conservation Rates in Effect

The District purchases your water from Seattle Public Utilities (SPU). As a means to encourage conservation, SPU charges a 20% conservation increase in the wholesale cost for the period of May 16 through September 15. Soos Creek will pass this increase on to our customers.

Summer conservation rates will be in effect for the June – September billing periods, and will be 20% higher than winter rates for the portion of bi-monthly consumption that exceeds 1,000 cubic feet.

## PREPARE YOUR GARDEN PARADISE FOR SUMMER

Summer means warmer, drier days around Puget Sound! Take these important steps to prepare your garden paradise for summer:

- ♦ Healthy soil makes healthy plants, and healthy plants require less water. Create healthy soil by adding compost.
- ♦ Add two to three inches of woodchip mulch to shrub and tree beds. Adding mulch lessens the need for watering.
- ♦ Avoid plant stress by planting new plants in the fall or early spring. New plants get the best start when planted during fall or spring rains.
- ♦ Give just the right amount of water to your plants. Established plants need less water during the spring and fall and more water in the summer. See <http://savingwater.org/lawngarden/index.htm> for more watering tips. For in ground irrigation systems, purchase a WaterSense irrigation timer and receive a \$100 rebate. Go to [www.savingwater.org](http://www.savingwater.org) for details.

For more information about preparing your garden for the summer's drier weather, go to [www.savingwater.org](http://www.savingwater.org) or call the Garden Hotline at (206) 633-0224.



## BEFORE YOU DIG...

Calling 811 is the most important step!



Call 811 at least a few days before you start any digging project. Whether you are planning to do it yourself or hire a professional, smart digging means calling 811 before each job. Ready to dig? We'll help you do it safely!

## UTILITY RATE REDUCTION PROGRAM

During 2015, 56 low-income permanently disabled and 240 low income senior citizens took advantage of the 30% base rate discount offered through this program. The total annual cost of the program was \$24,349.55. Based on equivalent residential units, this translates into an annual cost of 38 cents for all water customers and 42 cents for all sewer customers.

The discount does not apply to the King County Sewage Treatment charge, actual water consumption, street lighting, surcharges, and miscellaneous fees or late charges. If you would like an application for the District's Utility Rate Reduction Program, contact us at (253) 630-9900.

## SOOS CREEK WATER & SEWER DISTRICT

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### COMMISSIONERS

Gary Cline  
Alice Marshall  
Darold Stroud  
Steve Pfaff  
Larry West

### GENERAL MANAGER

Ron Speer

Meetings are held the first, third & fourth  
Wednesdays of the month @ 4:30 p.m.

### MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Soos Creek, a public agency, is to provide reliable, high quality water and sewer services in an efficient, cost effective manner.