

DID YOU KNOW?

Your Water Footprint

Nearly 95% of your water footprint is hidden in the food you eat, the energy you use, the products you buy, and the services you rely on. The water it takes to produce the average American diet alone — approximately 1,200 gallons per person per day — is more than the global average water footprint of 1,000 gallons per person per day for diet, household use, transportation, and the consumption of material goods.



5-Minute Showers

An American taking a 5-minute shower uses more water than the average person in a developing country uses for an entire day.



Think Before You Flush

Everything you send down the pipe ends up at your local wastewater treatment plant. We are all part of the water cycle. We all live downstream.



Safe Drinking Water

Over 148,000 community water systems provide water to the public in the United States. Skagit PUD is one of them, serving approximately 85,000 people with safe, reliable drinking water daily.

BE PREPARED BEFORE A CRISIS

Know how to shut off your water if pipes spring a leak



All plumbing materials age over time, and when they do, they become susceptible to damage and leaks. Knowing where your home's main water supply is located and how to turn it off is as important as knowing how to find and reset an electric circuit-breaker.

Do you know where the master water shut-off valve is in your home?

Knowing how to turn the water off is something everyone living in the house should be able to do, including the kids. You never know when you'll have a pipe spring a leak, and you need to turn the water off in a hurry. During an emergency, you can't afford to waste time searching for it!

First, you need to locate the master shut-off valve. Understanding how the water comes to your house can help you identify and find it. Skagit PUD has waterline mains that feed different parts of a service area. Off the main line, distribution lines provide water to your house. Before water gets to your home, there's a meter with a shut-off valve. Technically, you can shut the water off to the property here, but the PUD prefers that you don't use this valve because of the potential

for damage. So, this is the last resort option to shut the water off from the meter.

Water lines usually run from the water meter to the master shut-off valve without extra piping or detours. Therefore, if you know where your water meter is located outside, look for the shortest path to your home. The valve is more than likely found here.

The most common location for the master valve would be:

- Where the water supply pipe enters the foundation.
- Near your clothes washer hook-up.
- Near your hot water tank.

Locating the Proper Valve

Almost every home, apartment, and business have a master shut-off valve. To determine if you've found it, try turning the

SHUT-OFF VALVE > [SEE BACK PAGE](#)

WaterSense Offers Top Performance

Did you know that standard showerheads use 2.5 gallons of water per minute (gpm)? Showerheads that earn the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense label must demonstrate that they use no more than 2.0 gpm. The WaterSense label also ensures that these products provide a satisfactory shower equal to or better than conventional showerheads on the market.



The EPA worked with stakeholders, including consumers who tested various showerheads, to develop water coverage and spray intensity criteria.

Installing WaterSense-labeled showerheads could save the average family 2,900 gallons of water annually. Since these water savings will reduce the demand on water heaters, they will also save energy. The average family could save more than 370-kilowatt hours of electricity annually, or the amount it takes to power a house for 13 days.

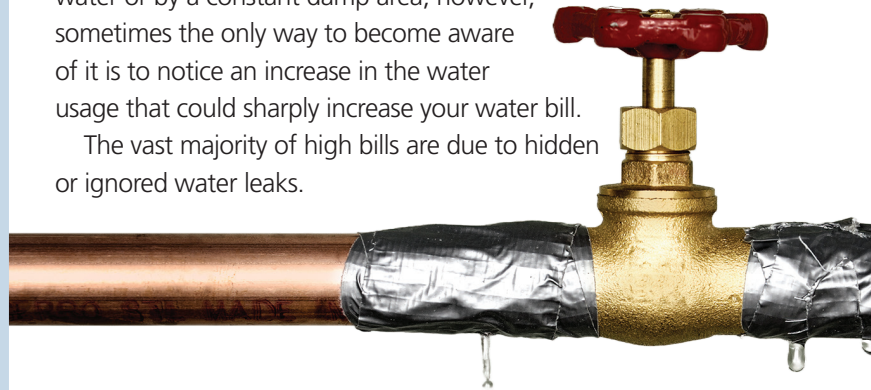
Whether replacing an older, inefficient showerhead or simply looking for ways to reduce water use and utility bills in your home, look for the WaterSense label to help you identify models that save water and perform well.

To make it easy to try a water- and energy-saving showerhead, Skagit PUD offers water efficiency kits for just \$11. The kits contain a WaterSense multi-mode massage showerhead and ultra-efficient faucet aerators. They can be purchased at our Mount Vernon office.

Have you identified a leak in your plumbing system?

Sometimes a leak can be identified by the sound of running water or by a constant damp area; however, sometimes the only way to become aware of it is to notice an increase in the water usage that could sharply increase your water bill.

The vast majority of high bills are due to hidden or ignored water leaks.



A continuous leak from a hole this size would, over three months, waste water in the amount shown below.

| Streams Diameter at 50 psi Inches | Gallons | Daily Average Gallons |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|
| 1/4" | 1,181,000 | 13,122 |
| 3/16" | 652,000 | 7,244 |
| 1/8" | 296,000 | 3,288 |
| 1/16" | 74,000 | 822 |

How to Find the Water Shut-Off Valve Before Crisis Strikes

> CONTINUED FROM FRONT

valve off briefly and see if that shuts off all water faucets in the building. If not, repeat this process with each valve until you find the one that does shut off all taps.

Basements. The shut-off valve is typically located near the front foundation wall. The line may come through the concrete floor or the wall. The valve is generally within three to five feet of where the service line enters. Sometimes, the service line may enter a different area, like a mechanical room, up through the floor, near the water heater or furnace.

Crawlspace plus a basement. The shut-off valve may be where the service

line enters the basement; in some older homes, the shut-off may be inside the crawl space. If your shut-off valve is in a crawl space, you may want to consider a secondary valve located in the basement.

Crawlspace with no basement. The shut-off valve is typically located near the water heater or under the kitchen sink, but anywhere is possible. If it's inside the crawlspace, you may want to consider a second valve in the living space, for example, near the water heater or under a sink.

Slab-on-grade construction. The shut-off valve is typically located near the water heater or under the kitchen sink,

but anywhere is possible.

Once you've found the master valve, mark it with something distinctive — bright paint, tag, or a ribbon. Marking it will save you valuable time if you ever experience interior flooding or other crises requiring quick water shut off.

