

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**Time to Buy a Rain Barrel**

When rain falls on your roof, it typically flows down your gutters and away from your house, carrying both the water and the opportunity to use it wisely. A rain barrel captures this valuable resource, transforming what might otherwise be lost runoff into a sustainable water supply for your home and garden.



Installing a rain barrel helps you:

- Save money by reducing your water bill — use stored rainwater for gardens, lawns, and plants.
- Protect the environment by decreasing stormwater runoff that can carry pollutants into streams.
- Provide a sustainable water source during dry spells and watering restrictions.
- Reduce erosion around your home's foundation by controlling roof runoff.
- Lower Skagit PUD water demand during peak summer months.
- Create healthier plants — rainwater is naturally soft and free of additives.

Skagit PUD offers 55-gallon ready-to-install rain barrels for \$65 plus tax. Contact us to purchase yours today.

## 5 Strategies to Keep Your Home's Plumbing in Top Shape



*Your home's plumbing system is an intricate network of pipes, fixtures, and appliances designed to provide clean water and efficient wastewater removal. Regular maintenance is vital to ensure the longevity and proper functioning of this essential system.*

### WATER WOES CAN SNEAK UP ON HOMEOWNERS

through seemingly innocent plumbing issues. Did you know that common household leaks can waste up to 10,000 gallons of water a year? Understanding how to detect and fix everyday leaks can save you money, prevent water damage, and conserve a precious resource. Here are five practical strategies to keep your home's plumbing in top shape.

in your home is to review your family's water bill to see if your usage looks high. A family of four likely has a serious leak problem if winter water use exceeds 12,000 gallons per month. You can also look for spikes. Is your water use a lot higher this billing cycle than last?



*Leak detection tablets can save you money.*

**1. Flag down high-water use.** Leaks are more than just a drop in the bucket — they inflate water bills. One way to check for leaks

by placing a few drops of food coloring in the tank at the back and waiting five minutes. Skagit PUD offers free dye tablets to

**2. Put your toilet to the test.** Silent toilet leaks could be responsible for high water use. Test your toilet for leaks

# 5 Home Plumbing Strategies

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customers. If color appears in the bowl, your toilet probably has a leak. Be sure to flush after the test to avoid staining!

**3. Flip your flapper.** Old or worn-out toilet flappers are usually the culprit behind a toilet leak. Because the rubber can wear out after five years or so, toilet flappers should be replaced at least every five years to ensure a good seal and avoid leaks. Installing a new toilet flapper is inexpensive and can be done in a few minutes — just make sure to replace it with the same type!



Toilet flapper



High-efficiency faucet aerators can help save water and money.

**4. Make the switch to savings.** Replace your old, inefficient faucet aerators with WaterSense-labeled models. For just a few dollars, your family could save up to 700 gallons of water per year. Skagit PUD sells a water efficiency kit with a multi-mode massage showerhead and ultra-efficient faucet aerators. Install these items today for more efficient and enjoyable showering with better faucet flow.



**5. Look for leaky trouble.** Check for leaks that might be hiding inside or outside your home. Look under sinks in the kitchen and bathroom — are there wet spots or puddles under the disposal or pipes that could be fixed by tightening joints or connections? Outside, look for drips or puddles by hose bibbs or irrigation lines, which could indicate a leak has sprung in your system.

## Maintain Your Meter Box For Easy Access

Your water meter is your connection to clean, reliable water. Usually located in your front yard between the sidewalk and street, your meter box houses vital equipment that needs to remain accessible.

### Why Meter Box Access Matters

- Our automated meter reading (AMR) system collects your usage data wirelessly.
- Quick access is essential for emergency shut-offs and maintenance.
- Regular monitoring helps detect potential leaks early.

### Keep Your Meter Box Clear

1. Remove obstacles like:
  - Garbage and recycling bins
  - Potted plants
  - Parked vehicles
  - Yard debris
2. Maintain the surrounding area:
  - Trim grass edges regularly.
  - Keep shrubs and landscaping trimmed back.
  - Ensure the box lid remains visible and accessible.

## Save Time, Save Space: Go Paperless with Skagit PUD

Simplify your life with paperless billing. Get your utility statements instantly, manage them effortlessly, and enjoy peace of mind knowing your information is secure.

### INSTANT & RELIABLE

- Receive email notifications the moment your bill is ready.
- Never miss a due date.
- View and pay your bill with just a few clicks.

### SECURE & ORGANIZED

- Access up to 32 months of statements in your secure online portal.

- Download statements anytime for your records
- Bank-level encryption protects your sensitive information

### CONVENIENT & ECO-FRIENDLY

- Pay from anywhere, anytime.
- Eliminate paper clutter and filing.
- Help reduce paper waste and support environmental sustainability.

Ready to make the switch? Visit [SkagitPUD.org](http://SkagitPUD.org) or scan the QR code to sign up in minutes. Questions? Call us at (360) 424-7104.

