

# The Source

The newsletter of PureSource Water, Inc.

Serving Redwood Drive, Forest Park Lane, and Pacific Heights Drive

## Quick Notes:

- Question about your bill? email us at: [Accounts@psh2o.com](mailto:Accounts@psh2o.com)
- Check Your Bill - **Small decrease in CPUC Fee coming in January. Please make a note to edit your payment then.**

Winter 2023

Volume 10, Issue 4

## The How and Why of Winter Water Conservation

As you probably know, most people use more water in the warmer and dryer months. Irrigation, car washing, and even bathing and hydration tend to be higher in the summer. Water systems consider winter water consumption to be a decent approximation of baseline indoor water use. Reducing that baseline can be tough, but also rewarding. If you have lived in a mountain home for very long, chances are you have at some point considered two things, the health of your septic system and the stability of your lot.

Let's consider the septic system first. Without getting into too much detail, a septic system functions as waste water into the tank, less dirty water out to the leach field. The amount of waste going in is relatively constant. The amount of water going in, we can vary a bit. Septic systems often run into challenges from too much water. Maybe your leach field is not as effective at disposing of the water as it once was. There could be many reasons for that, such as roots, a clogged leach field, or even saturated soils. The ability of the soil to accept more water is much more of an issue in the wetter months. If we reduce the amount of water going into the septic system, then we give the septic tank more time to break down the waste and reduce the overall demand on the system.

When you think of the stability of your lot, looking at water flow is a great place to start. Rain runoff from roof gutters and other paved surfaces can definitely be an issue in the winter – in the worst cases causing slides and erosion problems. Septic system load can also (continued on next page)

## Toilet Leak Detection

**Most Customers will receive toilet leak detection tablets enclosed with this month's bill.**

(Some recently metered customers will not, as the meter indicates when there is a leak).

These tablets are the easiest way to help you identify toilets that are wasting water.

### How To Use:

Dye tablets are non-toxic and FD&C safe.

Drop one dye tablet into the toilet *tank* (not the bowl)

DO NOT Flush the toilet

Wait about 15 minutes.

Check the toilet *bowl* for color.

If color appears, your toilet is wasting water, typically due to a worn flapper.

Here is a quick video showing how to use the tablets:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bJzIZqMXg8A>



**Please help conserve water by fixing any leaky toilets.** This is generally an inexpensive repair.

PureSource Water, Inc.  
PO Box 1958  
Aptos, CA 95001

Phone: 831-688-8476

e-mail:  
accounts@psh2o.com

www.psh2o.com

## WINTER CONSERVATION (continued)

saturate the soils around your home. This can contribute to stability problems in addition to septic overflow, or even failure.

The first place to go when looking to minimize water entering the septic system is leaks at toilets and faucets. One stuck toilet, flushing continuously, could overwhelm your septic system in a number of hours, and a consistently leaking faucet can also use hundreds of gallons of water over time. Some toilet leaks can be sneaky. If you hear your toilet refilling, or see a ripple in the bowl, you may have a leaky toilet flapper. Replacing those is generally inexpensive and easy to do. (see Toilet Leak Detection on page 1)

While we are talking about leaks, give a moment to consider outdoor leaks too. The water pipelines on your property running to your home and in your yard are the property owner's responsibility. A leak can quickly waste thousands of gallons of water and potentially lead to saturated soils around your lot. Next time you are outside it might be worthwhile to consider how the water is plumbed around your property, and to note any places that are wetter than you would expect. If you suspect a leak you can give us a call (831-688-8476) or email (accounts@psh2o.com). We may be able to help you confirm a leak and/or find the shutoff valve.

As your water supplier we hope that you will do what you can to minimize your water use both inside and outside your home. As your friends in the community we hope you can see how this will be beneficial to the stability of your property and the health of your septic system.



## Fun Corner: Coloring the Water Cycle



(Sung to the tune of  
*The 12 Days of Christmas*)

Here is what happened  
In the year of '23.

Twelve Drought Reportings  
Eleven Professional Trainings  
Ten Hydrant Checkings  
Nine Meter Installings  
Eight Filter Changings  
Seven Valve Exercisings  
Six Million Gallons  
Five Leaks Fixed  
Four Quarterly Newsletters  
Three Power Outages  
Two Annual Reports  
And One...  
Consumer Confidence Report

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!**

