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UPDATE: CKRWP Source Solutions and System Upgrades Project

The Cedar Knox Rural Water Project (CKRWP) is moving ahead with securing a groundwater source for our Public Water System (PWS) that serves more than 900 rural connections; several sanitary improvement districts (SIDs); recreational areas; and businesses along Lewis and Clark Lake and the Missouri River; and the communities of Crofton, Fordyce, St. Helena, and Obert.

Next steps in the process include a combination of drilling additional test holes and observation wells, constructing a test well, and conducting test pumping at the sites identified for well development. Harsh winter conditions have delayed the process and the work is planned to begin as soon as Downey Well and Irrigation, the company awarded the drilling contract, is able to access the test well and monitoring sites to complete the work as detailed by engineering firm, LRE.

Test pumping is performed to assess aquifer properties, determine final production well designs, and define optimum pumping rates and schedules. These tests include monitoring of water levels, in constructed observation wells as well as in existing irrigation, domestic, and stock wells, to record potential changes in water levels caused by pumping the test wells. The results of the tests will allow for protection of both the CKRWP supply and existing groundwater users.

CKRWP has secured \$7 million from American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) funding and \$8.5 million in Water Sustainability Funding from the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission. Nebraska State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan forgiveness is available for approximately \$10 million dollars with an additional \$10 million (approximately) available through SRF loan to complete the project. A public hearing is scheduled at the Lewis & Clark Natural Resources District office on March 8, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. to receive public comment on the project plan and rates.

The spring sampling will provide the first new information obtained since meeting at the Knox County Courthouse in the fall of 2022. CKRWP plans to host an informational meeting in the spring, following testing and data evaluation.

The Cedar Knox Rural Water Project strives to provide quality drinking water and looks forward to serving the need of rural residents and customers long into the future. If you have questions, contact Scott Fiedler at 402-254-6758.

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Report an Unknown Leak Credit

Cedar Knox Rural Water Project makes every effort to manage our system to conserve water and reduce water loss. However, leaks occur and with more than 400 miles of buried pipeline they can be difficult to locate. CKRWP is now offering a \$25 credit to your water bill when you report an unknown water leak on the CKRWP side of the meter. The BLUE water tower north of Hartington cannot be reported for the credit.

Prevent Backflow:

Can you imagine drinking water that came from a swimming pool, hot tub, or stock tank?



It can happen, a cross-connection is an actual or potential link between a source of contamination and a drinking water supply. Cross-connections are fixtures with direct connections (swimming pools, stock tanks) or submerged inlets (lawn sprinklers and utility sinks). Backflow is the unwanted reversal of flow from a loss of pressure in the water supply line, such as a water main break, which creates low pressure in the distributions system whereby contaminants may enter the drinking water supply. It is very important to prevent cross-connections with a proper air gap or backflow prevention assemblies.

Fix a Leak Week March 20-26, 2023

Fix a Leak Week serves as an important reminder of the need for water conservation and is an excellent opportunity to inspect your home and yard for easy-to-repair leaks. Over 10,000 gallons are wasted by the average household leak annually, and about 10% of households with water leaks waste a daily average of 90 gallons. Some common culprits include faulty toilet flappers, leaking valves, and dripping faucets. These leaks can be easy to address and fixing these leaks can help homeowners reduce their water usage by 10%.

Celebrate Fix a Leak Week by doing your part to make sure you are on the right side of the water conservation effort. CKRWP Technicians are available to help you try to isolate the leak, call to set up a time to meet with a CKRWP Technician.

Water Service and Customer Responsibility:

Customer responsibility begins immediately after the CKRWP water service meter pit. The meter pit, water meter, MIU and MIU board are all the property of CKRWP. Any damage to CKRWP's water service equipment other than normal wear and tear and weathering is the customer's responsibility.

Shutting Water Off and Curb Stops:

The water shut off in the meter pit is not designed for frequent use. CKRWP highly recommends all customers install a curb stop on their private lines just after the meter. A curb stop gives customers easy access to turn the water on and off on a regular basis or in emergency situations. A curb stop is a water control valve located on the private water line beside the water meter pit. Its purpose is to facilitate the isolation of water supply to the customer.

Please call if you need water shut off in the pit. The shut off valve in the pit should ONLY be shut off by CKRWP employees.

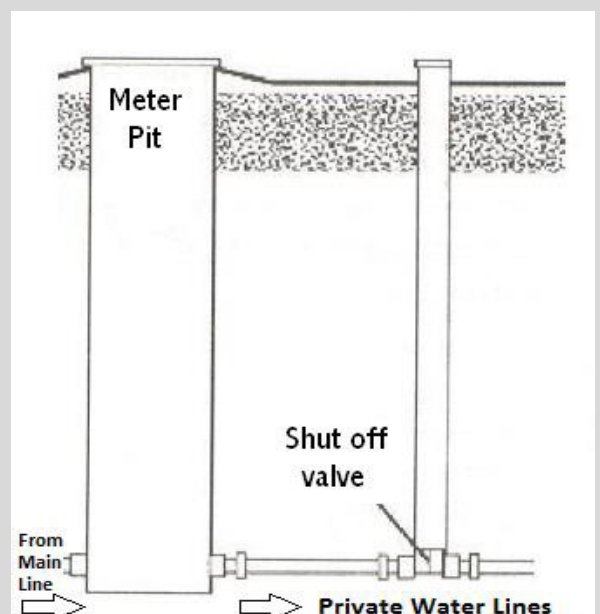
"Weed Tea"

Just like when you brew tea, whatever is in the tea will color and flavor the water. As the snow melts, the same thing happens with the dead plant material and the melting snow entering the Lake. Although it has been several years since this has happened, we anticipate that it will be very likely with the abundance of snow received this winter. This phenomenon typically only lasts for a few days but can last up to a couple of weeks. While your water could be discolored, it is perfectly safe to drink.

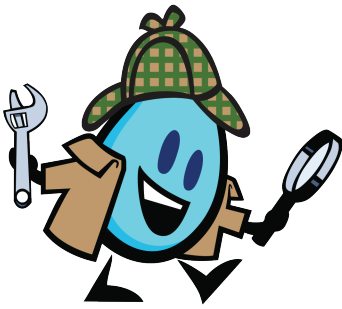


Meters Can Stop Working Over Time

Meters slow down with age and will eventually stop working all together. When this happens, CKRWP will replace the meter and estimate usage based on the customers history. Meters are also an important tool to indicate a leak on the customer side of the meter. Today's meters are capable of sensing incredibly low volumes of water. This can alert the customer of a leak that could have gone unnoticed without being metered.



Take the 10 Minute WaterSense Challenge



DETECT AND CHASE DOWN LEAKS



Did You Know

that easy-to-fix water leaks account for nearly 1 trillion gallons of water wasted each year in U.S. homes? In fact, the average household leaks nearly 10,000 gallons of water per year, or the amount of water it takes to wash 300 loads of laundry, and could be costing you an extra 10 percent on your water bills.

In just 10 minutes, you can search your home for leaks and crack down on water waste. Many common household leaks are quick to find and easy to fix. Worn toilet flappers, dripping faucets, and leaking showerheads all are easily correctable and can save on your utility bill expenses and water in your community.

So put on your detective hat, lace up your running shoes, and take this 10-minute challenge to detect and chase down leaks!

www.epa.gov/watersense/fix-leak-week



Start by Gathering Clues

These clues can help you detect leaks before you even start investigating your home.



Check Your Utility Bill

A place to start is to examine your utility bill for January or February. It's likely that a family of four has a serious leak problem if its winter water use exceeds 12,000 gallons (or 16 CCF) per month. You can also look for spikes—is your water use a lot higher this month than it was last month? Learn more about your water bill:

www.epa.gov/watersense/understanding-your-water-bill.



Read Your Water Meter

Find your water meter, which is usually near the curb in front of your home but can be inside your home (e.g., in the basement) in cold climates. Use a screwdriver to remove the lid on your meter, which is heavy and usually marked "water."

Now that you've found the meter, take a reading during a period when no water is being used. If the meter does not read exactly the same after two hours, you probably have a leak. Here's a tip on how to read a water meter:

www.smarthomewaterguide.org/how-to-read-your-water-meter.



Take a Toilet Test

Put a few drops of food coloring into the tank at the back of your toilet and let it sit for 10 minutes. If color shows up in the bowl, you have a leak. Make sure to flush afterward to avoid staining, and consider replacing your old toilet flapper if it is torn or worn. Check our Fix a Leak web page for handy videos that show you how to do it.

While you're waiting to see if your toilet has a leak, walk around your house with the checklist on the next page and see if you can chase down any other water wasters.

Checklist for Chasing Down Leaks

Here are some of the places leaks may be hiding in your home.

Some leaks require a simple fix—a worn toilet flapper, loose pipe connection, or showerhead with stray spray. But you may want to consult a licensed plumber to stop your running toilet, broken sprinklers, water heater drips, or malfunctioning water supply lines. Take a quick inventory of clues to water waste:

IN THE BATHROOM

- Toilets: Listen for running water and conduct the food coloring test described on the first page.
- Faucets: Listen for drips and turn on the tap to check for water going the wrong direction.
- Showerheads: Turn on and look for drips or stray sprays that can be stopped with tape.
- In the tub: Turn on the tub, then divert the water to the shower and see if there's still a lot of water coming from the tub spout; that could mean the tub spout diverter needs replacing.
- Under the sink: Check for pooling water under pipes and rust around joints and edges.

IN THE KITCHEN

- Faucet: Listen for drips and tighten aerators or replace fixtures if necessary.
- Sprayer: Check to make sure water is spraying smoothly and clean openings as needed.
- Under the sink: Check for pooling water under pipes and rust around joints and edges.
- Appliances: Check for pooling water underneath dishwashers and refrigerators with ice makers, which could indicate a supply line leak.

IN THE LAUNDRY OR UTILITY ROOM

- Under the sink: Check for pooling water under pipe connections.
- Clothes washer: Check for pooling water, which could indicate a supply line leak.

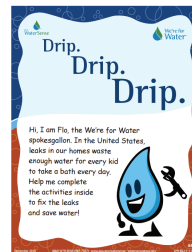
IN THE BASEMENT OR UTILITY ROOM

- Water heater: Check beneath the tank for pooling water, rust, or other signs of leakage.

DON'T FORGET TO GO OUTSIDE

- At the spigot: Ensure tight connections with the hose and see if the hose washer needs replacing.
- In-ground irrigation system: Check for broken sprinklers or nozzles spraying in the wrong direction. You may want to consult an irrigation auditor certified by a WaterSense labeled program to improve system efficiency: www.epa.gov/watersense/find-pro.

FOR THE KIDS



Kids aren't just the leaders of tomorrow, they're the dreamers and doers of today. "Test Your WaterSense" and try other fun activities at Flo's Kids Zone at:

www.epa.gov/watersense/watersense-kids.

THROUGHOUT THE HOUSE

Check for signs of moisture or mold on your walls, ceilings, or floors. This could indicate that a pipe is wreaking havoc behind the scenes and requires the attention of a professional.

If you want to do a more detailed investigation for leaks, check out the Arizona Municipal Water Users Association Smart Home Water Guide at www.smarthomewaterguide.org.

If any of your fixtures needs replacing, remember to look for the WaterSense label when purchasing plumbing products. WaterSense labeled products are independently certified to use at least 20 percent less water and perform as well or better than standard models.

For more information, visit www.epa.gov/watersense/fix-leak-week.

MARK AN X FOR LEAKS

