

MARBLEHEAD WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION



THE FLOW N' GO

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'SOME LIKE IT HOT' ... BUT NOT YOUR LAWN AND GARDEN

How many of us remember the 1959 romantic comedy film *Some Like It Hot* starring Marilyn Munroe, Tony Curtis and Jack Lemmon? Set in the late 1920's, the movie is about two musicians who dress in drag in order to escape the 'heat' from mafia gangsters whom they witnessed commit a crime.

Like Tony and Jack, your lawn and plants need to escape the heat - though a different kind - during the months of July and August and no amount of lipstick, a wig or loose-fitting sun-dress will protect them from the sun's rays —though it might attract some funny looks. The only way to keep them safe and healthy is watering (and maybe a side dressing of fertilizer).

So it is no coincidence that summer's rising temperatures bring with it an increase in water use. It is not uncommon for some households to use two to four times as much water during the summer months as they use the rest of the year.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has several tips that you can follow that will use less water outside while at the same time creating a healthier landscape.

Water your landscape when it will be most effective, generally in the early morning or in the evening after the sun goes down. During the daytime hours, significant amounts of water can be lost due to evaporation caused by the heat.

Raise your lawn mower blade. Longer grass promotes deeper root growth which results in a more drought-resistant lawn, reduced evaporation and fewer weeds.

People tend to overwater their lawn, believing that more is better. Grass doesn't always need water just because it is hot out.

Before turning that sprinkler on, do the 'Walk Test.' Walk (or dance, if you are so inclined) across your lawn. If the grass springs back, your lawn doesn't need to be watered. If you can see your foot prints, then give your grass a drink.

Break out the broom. Homeowners waste a considerable amount of water by using their hose to 'sweep' their driveways, walkways and steps. It is just as easy (and a lot less messy) to actually sweep these areas with a good-old broom.

Wash your car with water from a bucket and if you have a pool, use a cover to reduce evaporation when the pool is not in use.

Nation-wide, residential outdoor water use accounts for nearly nine billion gallons of water every day. Experts estimate that as much as 50 percent of this outdoor use is wasted from evaporation, wind, runoff and inefficient watering methods.

By following these tips, we can all do our part to conserve water and save ourselves some money.

TIP OF THE QUARTER

In the article to the left we urge you to wash your car using a bucket of water instead of running the hose. But take precautions so as not to contaminate the water supply.

When the end of a hose is submerged, like in a bucket of soapy water, a sudden drop in pressure can cause the water (and chemicals) in the bucket to be drawn back into the hose and water supply system.

Never leave the end of a hose in the bucket. Take the hose out and shut the water off.

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SELLING A HOME REQUIRES WATER DEPARTMENT INSPECTION

The process for the transfer of ownership of real estate now requires that the water department inspect the meter and any connections before a final water and sewer bill will be provided for the closing.

If the property owner is working with a real estate agent, the agent will usually take

care of this. If they are not using the services of an agent, the owner should make sure that they are familiar with the process.

Information can be found at www.marblehead.org/water and follow the Real Estate Transfers link on the left sidebar. Please call the office if further details are needed.

MARBLEHEAD'S WATER QUALITY AND SESD PIPELINE PROJECT RECOGNIZED

The Marblehead Water and Sewer Commission recently received good news on both ends of the spectrum: The water department has been recognized for its outstanding performance in 2016 in bringing water in and the South Essex Sewerage District's Marblehead Pipeline Replacement Project has once again been honored for its engineering fete in taking water away.

Marblehead achieves a 'top score' from Public Water System Awards Program

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection's Drinking Water Program announced in April that the Marblehead Water Department had achieved one of the top scores in the Consecutive System category of the 2017 Public Water System Awards program.

The notice of award reads, "MassDEP realizes that it is no easy task to keep up with the ever-evolving federal and state drinking regulations. While most systems strive just to comply with the regulations, your system has put forth an extra effort for many years."

The Commission would like to congratulate the water department employees on the recognition of their continuing efforts to provide quality water.

The Water and Sewer Commission is committed to protecting our resources and supplying safe water to our citizens.

Sewer Pipeline Project receives second national award for engineering

As many of you may recall, back in 2013 the pipelines running under Salem Harbor that carried our solid waste to the South Essex Sewerage District's treatment facility in Salem ruptured. The existing 6,000 feet of 20-inch and 24-inch ductile iron pipes would require a total replacement.

The corroded pipes were replaced with non-corroding high-density polyethylene (HDPE) pipes at a cost of nearly \$12.5 million.

The American Public Works Association previously recognized the project as the 2016 Public Works Project of the Year in the Environmental Category.

The project was also honored with a National Recognition Award from the American Council of Engineering Companies at their National Awards Program held in April, 2017, in Washington, D.C.

HIGH-USE WATER RATE SET TO ENCOURAGE CONSERVATION

The Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners held a Public Hearing June 6 to set water and sewer rates and fees for fiscal year 2018, which began July 1, 2017. Rates are charged per 100 cubic feet of usage and have two tiers—usage of 3,000 cubic feet or less and usage over 3,000 cubic feet per quarter.

The lower-tier (1 to 3,000 cubic feet) rate for water remained unchanged from the previous year at \$4.80 per 100 cubic feet. The higher-tier rate increased by \$0.25 to \$6.35/100cf.

Sewer rates, which are based on water usage, increased by \$0.05 to \$9.00 per 100cf for lower-tier usage and there was no increase from the previous year for higher-tier usage at \$9.30/100cf.

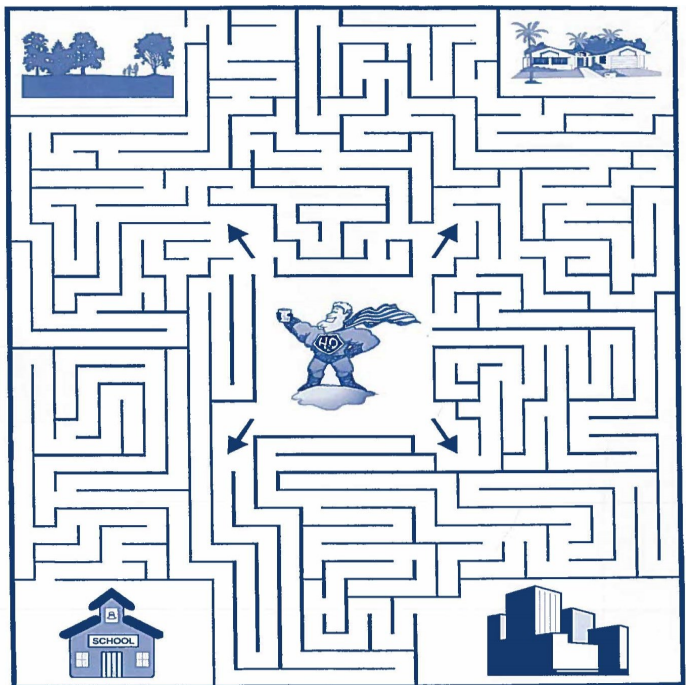
Residents who are conservative in their water use and consume less than 3,000 cubic feet per quarter, which is about 82 percent of our customers, will see a very minimal increase in their water and sewer bills. Those who use in excess of 3,000 cubic feet, most likely from outside watering, will see a more sizable increase. This, hopefully, will encourage residents to be more conservative in their use.

The water Administrative Charge increased from \$15.25 per quarter to \$15.75 and the sewer Administrative Charge went from \$12.50 to \$13.50 per quarter.

Kids' Corner

Water Conservation Maze

Help Captain H2O find his way to your parents' office, the local park, your home and your school to spread his water conservation knowledge. (**Bonus:** What is Captain H2O's nickname?)



Courtesy San Diego (CA) Water Department (Bonus Answer: Captain Water)