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For summer fun, see page 2



Emerging Water Quality Issues

Fairfax Water's primary objective is the protection of public health through the delivery of high-quality drinking water. While we understand that pharmaceuticals are an issue of interest, to date research has not demonstrated an impact on human health from pharmaceutical compounds at the trace levels discovered in drinking water. Our utility conducts tens of thousands of analyses every year to ensure the water we provide meets or surpasses Safe Drinking Water Act standards, which were created to protect customers.

Currently there are no approved methods for detecting personal care products and pharmaceuticals in drinking water because they appear in such minute quantities. Unfortunately, there is no "blanket" water test for pharmaceuticals in drinking water. Fairfax Water has been actively working with leading researchers to develop an appropriate testing

protocol for detection of very low levels for a variety of these compounds. We are currently developing a testing plan for our source and treated waters. We will continue to work closely with others in the drinking water community to advance the science and understanding of this issue, and will take the steps necessary to continue providing high-quality drinking water.

In addition to research and testing, Fairfax Water also employs one of the most advanced water treatment technologies, ozonation. Research has shown that using the combination of ozone and granular activated carbon, which Fairfax Water uses to treat all of the water in its system, is highly effective in removing broad categories of personal care products and pharmaceuticals.

For more information about water quality issues, visit www.fairfaxcounty.org and click on Water Quality.

The **Rx** to Help Protect Our Environment Safe Disposal of Unwanted Medicines

Wondering what to do with those unwanted medications in your cabinet? Disposing of them is easy if you remember one simple rule: Don't flush them.

If you flush medications, they can end up in our rivers and streams. To help protect our environment, throw unused, unwanted or expired over-the-counter and prescription medicines in the trash. Don't flush medicines — except when specifically instructed by the label.

The American Pharmacists Association recommends steps for safely disposing of pills and liquids in the trash. These steps will help prevent their misuse or accidental ingestion by children or pets.

1. Keep the medicines in their original container. This will help identify the contents if they are accidentally ingested.
2. Cross out your name and prescription number for safety.
3. For pills: add some salt water to start dissolving them. For liquids: add something inedible like cat litter, dirt or ash.
4. Seal the container and secure with duct or packing tape.
5. Put the container in the trash as close to pickup time as possible. Do not put in the recycle bin.

For more information and updates about medication disposal, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dontflush or call the Fairfax County Health Department at 703-246-2411, TTY 711.



Editor's Note

If you have comments or suggestions about this publication, please e-mail us at PR@fairfaxwater.org or write to the address below.

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Important Numbers

Fairfax Water Services

Questions about water service:
703-698-5800.
After-hours water emergencies:
703-698-5613
Questions about billing:
703-698-5800
All other Fairfax Water departments:
703-698-5600

Fairfax County Services

24-Hour trouble response center for sewer back-ups or sluggish flow in a sink, toilet, or tub:
703-323-1211
Sanitary sewer billing information:
703-324-5015
Sanitary sewer back-ups and line maintenance:
703-250-2003

Dig with C.A.R.E. – Miss Utility at 811 or 1-800-552-7001

Use TTY 711 (Virginia Relay) for all numbers unless otherwise stated.

Summer Fun for Kids



Looking for some interesting and educational activities for your children this summer? We can help them learn more about water – where it comes from, how it is treated and how to protect this valuable resource. We provide a variety of educational resources for kids, parents and teachers on our Web site at www.fairfaxwater.org.

The highlight of these new educational resources is an online e-book about water treatment designed especially for kids. It's filled with music, movement and fun information about how our luxury treatment “spa” makes your water delicious!

You'll also find links to lesson plans and activities designed for all ages, along with The Story of Drinking Water.

Just visit www.fairfaxwater.org, click on Educational Resources and let the learning - and the fun - begin!

Weekend Landscaper? Dig with C.A.R.E.!

Miss Utility is the “one call” Virginia communications center for those planning any kind of excavation or digging, whether contractor or homeowner. The Miss Utility center notifies participating utilities of the upcoming excavation work so they can locate and mark their underground facilities in advance to prevent possible damage to underground utility lines, injury, property damage and service outages. The “Miss Utility Law” requires that Miss Utility be called at least three working days in advance of the planned work to allow time for marking, that the marks be respected and protected, and that excavation be completed carefully. For more information, visit www.missutilityofvirginia.com or call 811 or 1-800-552-7001, TTY 711.

**Dig With C.A.R.E.
Keep Virginia Safe!**

811
Call Miss Utility at before you dig.

Allow required time for marking.

Respect the marks.

Excavate carefully.

Whether your project is big or small, one free and easy call gets the underground utility lines marked and helps avoid costly damages, fines and even personal injury. So, please call 811 and dig with C.A.R.E.

This message is brought to you by Miss Utility of Virginia

Water-Saving Tip #25

Adjust your lawn mower to a higher setting. Longer grass shades the root systems and holds soil moisture better than a closely clipped lawn.

For more information and other water-saving tips, visit www.wateruseitwisely.com

