

Water *lines*

BIRCH BAY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT
SERVING THE GREATER BIRCH BAY AREA SINCE 1968

District and City Win First Place in Best Tasting Water Contest!

Birch Bay Water and Sewer District and the City of Blaine won first place in the Northwest Subsection of the American Waterworks Associations (AWWA) 2015 Best Tasting Water Contest. The water was tasted by a panel of five judges who sampled water from a total of nine water purveyors in the Northwest Washington region. The District and City have placed second the past two consecutive years.

The District and the City will go on to participate in the regional water drinking water contest at the upcoming AWWA Section Conference in Bellevue at the end of April.



American Express No Longer Accepted

In a continuing effort to contain costs the District is no longer accepting American Express credit cards. The change is due to the high fees that American Express charges the District.



The District does provide a number of convenient ways for customers to pay their utility bills. Customers can pay their bill by auto-debit, online at www.bbwsd.com, home banking payments, or at the District Office.

Contact BBWARM for Stormwater Questions

When Birch Bay residents have questions about stormwater, they often call our office. However, the Birch Bay Watershed and Aquatic Resources Management (BBWARM) District is the stormwater management district serving the Birch Bay watershed. Our districts work together on education and outreach events like our popular rain barrel workshops and coordinate regularly to better reduce stormwater flooding and protect water quality and aquatic habitat in Birch Bay.

To learn more about BBWARM, look for the annual BBWARM newsletter in your mailbox this summer or visit www.bbwarm.whatcomcounty.org where you can sign up for BBWARM email notifications. Call Ingrid Enschede with Whatcom County Public Works at (360) 715-7450 with questions about the BBWARM program.





We're Chasing Leaks for Fix a Leak Week

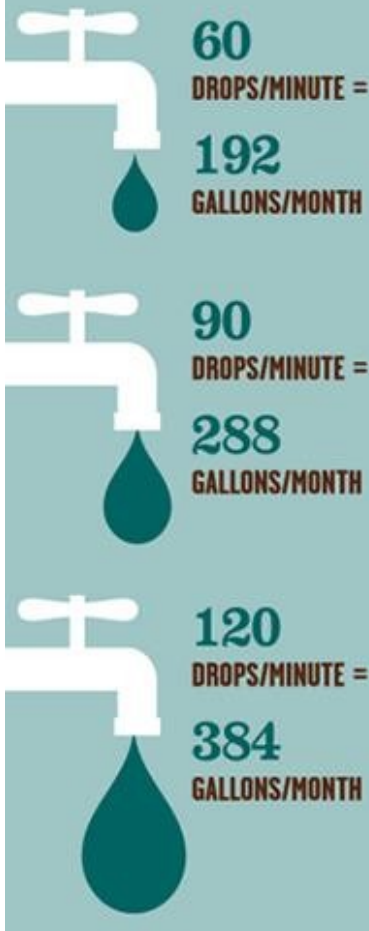


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Examples of water lost to leaks from a dripping faucet



EPA WaterSense program is sponsoring “Fix a Leak Week” March 16-22 to remind Americans to check their plumbing fixtures and irrigation systems for leaks. The WaterSense website www.epa.gov/watersense offers useful tips and videos about leak identification and repair. Leak detection and repair inside the house is often very easy and simple and is a great first step toward creating a water efficient home.

According to EPA WaterSense, 10 percent of homes have leaks that waste 90 gallons or more per day. Common types of leaks found in the home include leaky faucets, showerheads, and outdoor spigots. All are easily correctable and in most cases replacement parts are fairly inexpensive.

The District also encourages customers to locate and read their meters to detect leaks. Information on how to read your meter can be found on the District’s website at www.bbwsd.com under Customer Service. For more information contact Emily Hagin at 360-371-7100.

A QUICK & EASY FIX!

Leaky sink faucets are often caused by faulty washers that don't allow your faucet to shut off properly. Replacing faulty washers is an easy and inexpensive (less than \$1) way to recoup water and money savings.



Importance of Groundwater Awareness

The National Groundwater Association has designated March 9-15 as Groundwater Awareness week to promote education about groundwater as a valuable resource.

An Important Resource

- The District and City of Blaine draw on groundwater supplies as their source of drinking water.
- More than 90% of fresh water in the U.S. and the world is located in groundwater aquifers.
- 50% (about 140 million people) of the United States drink groundwater each day.
- Groundwater supplies over 13,000 people in NW Whatcom County and has been utilized since the early 1900s.

Protection & Conservation

- Do not dump, pour or flush hazardous substances on the ground, down the drain or in the toilet. Contact local waste authorities for proper disposal of antifreeze, oil, pesticides/herbicides, paint/paint thinner and cleaning chemicals. Once groundwater is contaminated it is very expensive to clean and make usable again.

