

WET'S NEW

An update from Mountain Water and Sanitation District

July 2013

www.mtwaterandsan.com

Protect your curb stop

What's a curb stop?

The curb stop is a water shutoff valve located approximately where the service line crosses your property line. The curb stop provides access to the underground valve, and it's where water will be turned off in the event of an emergency.



Why should I care?

A curb stop that is not protected from accumulation of dirt, snow and debris can become inoperable. Repairing or replacing a broken curb stop is the homeowner's responsibility and can be quite costly.

In addition to the curb stop, homeowners are responsible for the service line from the main to their homes. This includes water and sewer. For a full description of homeowner responsibilities, please see the [rules and regulations](#) on the District's web site.

How can I protect my curb stop?

Each customer is responsible for maintenance of the curb stop valve and box. It must be exposed – at least four inches above the finished ground surface – and in working order. Check your lid for cracks and make sure it is exposed at all times, shoveling around it in the winter.

You should locate your curb stop, protect it and leave it alone (don't ever open it up)!

If you want to have your curb stop checked or you have questions about its location, please contact the District office, 303-838-1800.

Conservation tips

As everyone knows, Colorado is experiencing a severe drought. Each homeowner can take simple steps to conserve water. Here's a top ten list:

1. The toilet is the biggest guzzler of indoor water (about 25 percent of usage) and takes about 4.1 gallons per flush. Some ways to reduce consumption are:
 - Install a low flow toilet.
 - Put a plastic, water-filled, capped bottle in the tank to reduce the fill amount, or adjust the float level.
 - Don't use the toilet to dispose of trash.
2. A toilet leak can waste lots of water. To check for a leak, put a few drops of food coloring in the tank. Don't flush. Wait 30 minutes. If colored water shows in the bowl, there is a leak.
3. A short shower uses a lot less water than a bath. Most showers can be fitted with a flow restrictor or low-volume head to conserve water.
4. Only run your dishwasher and washing machines when they are full or adjust the water level.
5. Listen for dripping faucets and running toilets.
6. Turn off the water when you are brushing your teeth, shaving, washing dishes or peeling vegetables.

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Conservation tips, continued

7. Keep a container of cold water in the refrigerator rather than running the water to get it cold enough.
8. Insulate your hot water pipes to get hot water faster.
9. Know where your master valve is in case you have to turn off water in an emergency. (This is the master valve inside your home; never turn off your water at the curb stop.)
10. When buying new appliances, consider those that offer cycle and load adjustments. These save water and energy.

AND REMEMBER: NO OUTDOOR WATERING

(Pursuant to the augmentation plan approved by the District Court for Water Division #1)

For more conservation tips, go to our website, www.mtwaterandsan.com

Financial matters

Thanks to the approval of MWSD voters, the District was able to receive two zero percent interest loans from the state to clean up our water, improve our water distribution system and build a new wastewater treatment plant. Those loans allow the District to improve the water and wastewater infrastructure at the lowest possible cost to property owners.

Projects financed by the first loan (\$1 million) are almost completed. These funds have been used to build the water remediation system to remove radionuclides and to improve aging parts of the distribution system. The radionuclide remediation project was required to meet current federal and state water quality standards and ensure our residents have safe, quality water.

The second loan (\$2 million) will be used to build a new wastewater treatment plant, which the District needs to replace our outdated plant that doesn't meet current state standards. Engineering and design for this plant are currently under way.

The District has received state grants to help fund engineering costs of these projects. Grant funding further reduces the cost of water and

wastewater system upgrades to District property owners. That's the good news.

The bad news is that the District is limited by the TABOR Amendment in how much grant money it can spend each year.

For example, the District received a \$90,000 loan for engineering of the wastewater treatment plant and has had to apportion those funds over three years to meet the TABOR requirements.

There are additional grant opportunities available from the state. Currently the state is awarding grants of up to \$50,000 for source water protection projects. However, because of the TABOR restrictions, the District will not apply for these grants since we have reached our limit of spending regarding grant funding. This means that the District's source water protection projects must be funded through revenue collected from property owners instead of grant money.

The only way the District could accept additional funding in grants is if the residents voted to eliminate the TABOR Amendment restriction on revenue.

Board meetings

The Board of Mountain Water and Sanitation District meets at 7 p.m. the first and third Tuesdays of each month at the District office. Meetings are open to the public. For information, call the office, 303-838-1800.

Board members:

Ken Pfohl, President
Greg Carman, Vice President
Jennifer Ferrando, Secretary
Dan Beley, Assistant Secretary
Marilyn Saltzman, Treasurer

Staff:

Theresa Miers, Superintendent
Launa Rae Warinner, Office Manager
Don Staal, Operator