

## Backflow Prevention Assembly Annual Testing Dates

Annual backflow assembly tests are due by **May 15<sup>th</sup>** for Commercial customers and **June 15<sup>th</sup>** for Residential customers or within **fifteen (15) days of the date the irrigation system is re charged/turned on.**

If your irrigation has not been activated by the due date or you have a test scheduled after the due date please notify the Water Division. This will help prevent you from receiving a late notice, penalties, or an interruption to your water service. See the City's website for our online **Irrigation-Backflow Contact Form** you can use.

The City of Post Falls Water Division will mail out noncompliance letters on the following dates; **May 22<sup>nd</sup>** for commercial accounts and **June 19<sup>th</sup>** for residential accounts. The Water Division will have increased call answering capabilities during this busy time to ensure our customer's messages are being received.

## What is a Backflow Prevention Assembly and a Cross-Connection ?

A **Cross-Connection** is a point in a plumbing system where the potable water supply is connected to a non-potable source. Several common examples of **Cross-Connections** are: irrigation sprinkler systems, swimming pools, solar heat systems, boilers, wash basins and service sinks.

**Backflow or Back Siphonage** can occur during fire fighting, power outages, or when a main water line breaks and water is drawn to the point of high usage. This reversing of the water flow can draw contaminants back into the water distribution system.

A **Backflow Prevention Assembly** is a mechanical device that prevents this backflow. Per Idaho Sate law **Backflow Prevention Assemblies** must be tested each year to ensure that they are performing properly and, when necessary, they must be repaired or replaced in order to assure proper operation.



### **HOW TO CONTACT US:**

#### **Water Division:**

208-777-9857  
Mon-Fri 7am-4pm  
2002 W Seltice Way  
**www.postfallsidaho.org**  
**Email: waterdivision@postfallsidaho.org**

#### **City Hall:**

208-773-3511  
Billing 208-777-4504  
Mon—Fri 8am—5pm  
408 N Spokane St.

#### **After hours emergencies:**

Post Falls Police Dept.  
208-773-3517

### **Online information**

A list of licensed backflow assembly testers registered with the City of Post Falls Water Division and their contact information can be found on the City website: **www.postfallsidaho.org**; Click on **Departments**; select the **Water Division** and all of the Water Division forms, letters and lists are available for your convenience. You can use our online **Irrigation-Backflow Contact form** to let us know your irrigation system status.

### **Utility Billing Info**

Your City of Post Falls utility bill is mailed out the first business day of each month, and payment is due by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.

#### **Drop Box Location:**

For your convenience, a drop-box is located at City Hall just left of the east entry doors.

#### **Online Payments:**

Payments can be made at the City web site **www.postfallsidaho.org**. There is also a direct bank draft option that automatically pays from your bank account.

**Have a water related question  
or issue?**

### **Contact Us First**

The Water Division's primary functions are to supply and protect the potable water in our area and to educate and assist our customers. By contacting us first we often can assist you with your water related issues and save you money. Please call us at (208) 777-9857 Monday – Friday, 7:00 AM – 4:00 PM, and we will do our best to be of service!

You can also email us at

**waterdivision@postfallsidaho.org**

## **SPOKANE VALLEY – RATHDRUM PRAIRIE AQUIFER QUIZ**

The Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer was designated as a "sole source" aquifer in 1978 by the Environmental Protection Agency. "Sole Source" means that the aquifer is our only affordable source of drinking water in our bi-state region, serving drinking water to more than 500,000 people every day.

The greater Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer has twenty-one water purveyors operating 122 wells throughout the area provide safe, clean drinking water to your homes, offices and industries every day. Each purveyor draws water from the same source –

The Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer.

### **SPOKANE VALLEY – RATHDRUM PRAIRIE AQUIFER QUIZ.**

1. How much water is drawn from the aquifer every day?
2. How much water is used by one person each day in Kootenai County?
3. How much more water is used in summer than in winter?
4. What are two ways water use quantities from the aquifer can change in the future?
5. Is the aquifer a limited source?

See answers on other side

## Water Conservation

To help conserve water, the City developed the following water conservations items:

**City Ordinance prohibits irrigation from 12 P.M. to 6:00 P.M.**

**We also ask that odd numbered addresses water on Monday, Wednesday & Friday and even numbered addresses water on Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday.**

It is not the City's intention to prevent the children from using their slip-n-slide or running through the sprinkler on a hot summer day. We are asking our customers to conserve water during the hottest part of the day when as much as ninety percent (90%) of irrigation water is lost to evaporation and does the least amount of good. Customers are also allowed to water new plants and lawns that are newly hydro-seeded until they become well established and need less water.

Another way to help conserve water: take a class from North Idaho College about landscaping with native plants.

Native plants are increasingly used for gardening, landscaping, and restoring plant communities. They are best adapted to the local climate. Once established, they seldom need watering, mulching, protection from frost or continuous mowing. They provide natural beauty, cost-effective landscaping alternatives, environmental services and habitat for wildlife. Learn how to effectively use native plants in your landscape design.

**The City of Post Falls will provide utility bill credit equal to the cost of course fees and reference manuals for customers who complete this class.** All you need to do is bring in your copies of paying these fees and the Certificate of Achievement from NIC to the finance department. They will take copies and credit those monies back to your utility account. For more information about the class contact North Idaho College at [www.nic.edu](http://www.nic.edu), (208) 769-3214 or email them at [nicworkforcetraining@nic.edu](mailto:nicworkforcetraining@nic.edu) and ask about the Landscaping with Native Plants Class (ID: 86653).

**Know What's Below...Call Before You Dig**  
Call at least two days prior to actually digging. It is the responsibility of the person digging to call for underground utility locates. For more info, visit [www.call811.com](http://www.call811.com) or call the Water Division. **811 or 1-800-428-4950**



**Have a water related question or issue?**

***Contact Us First***

**The Water Division's primary functions are to supply and protect the potable water in our area and to educate and assist our customers. By contacting us first we often can assist you with your water related issues and save you money. Please call us at (208) 777-9857 Monday – Friday, 7:00 AM – 4:00 PM, and we will do our best to be of service!**

**You can also email us at**

**[waterdivision@postfallsidaho.org](mailto:waterdivision@postfallsidaho.org)**

## Some information about the Water Division

There are over one hundred-fifteen (115) miles of water lines in the City of Post Falls water system. Two other water districts also provide water to the area in addition to the City. The City has eight (8) wells and five (5) reservoirs. The City system has over seven thousand (7000) residential and commercial water meters. These meters are read on a monthly basis with a vehicle radio read system.

Average operating system water pressure is sixty-five to seventy-five (65-75) psi; customers further north in the system will have lower water pressure while customers further south will have higher pressures. Locally we are very fortunate to have an abundant supply of clean, healthy drinking water from the Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer. Nothing else is added to our water. Chlorine is not used full time, but is added once per year, normally in November, to help maintain a clean distribution system. The City's cross-connection control program also helps maintain the purity of the drinking water we all enjoy. By working together, we can ensure clean, safe water for all.

## Waste of Water = \$\$\$

One of the most costly and common household wastes of water is a leaking or running toilet. Toilet leaks can range from small to large, from constant to random, or from being heard or silent, but all of them waste water.

The most common toilet leak is due to an improperly adjusted or broken fill valve causing water to enter the tank and flow into the overflow tube. This can easily result in a 1-2 gallon per minute leak. That can be an extra \$45.00 dollars on top of your normal bill amount.

A common leak outside of your home is a leaking garden hose or dripping faucet, which can yield several gallons per minute of wasted water.

If one zone of an underground sprinkler system is damaged or malfunctions it can result in large amounts of wasted water each time it runs.

Leak Source	Typical Leakage	Gallons/Day Used	Gallons/Month Used	Cost of leak Water charges only
Running toilet	1 gallon/minute	1,440	43,200	\$48.59
Leaking faucet	1 drip/second	9	259	\$.29
Leaking showerhead	10 drips/minute	1.4	43	\$.05
In-ground irrigation leak	1/32" in diameter	210	6,300	\$6.78
Overflow tube in toilet tank	2-6 gallon/minute	2,880 -8,640	86,400 - 259,200	\$115.68 - \$397.67
A garden hose left running or a missing sprinkler head	1/2" in diameter	14,440 -17,280	433,200 - 518,400	\$681.29 - \$819.84

## Updated Water Rates

Monthly tiered rate applies to residential customers

0 to 49,000 gallons = \$1.13 per 1,000 gallons

50,000 gallons or more = \$1.63 per 1,000 gallons

## Spokane Valley - Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer Quiz Answers

1. Approximately 206 million gallons/day, as of 2015.
2. On average, 214 gallons per person per day. This is more than 4 bathtubs full.
3. Six times more water is pulled from the aquifer during summer than in winter.
4. A) Population increases mean water use increases B) Water conservation (using less water for the same activities) could reduce the projected future water use up to 40%.
5. Yes, the aquifer has to be recharged every year from precipitation and groundwater.

For more information on our aquifer go to [www.spokaneaquifer.org](http://www.spokaneaquifer.org)

## 2016 –2017 Winter

The 2016-2017 winter had some of the longest sustained below-freezing temperatures Post Falls has seen in years. Frozen ground led to frozen water pipes. This winter the Water Division thawed or replaced 50 frozen meters, had several service lines freeze and even had one main line that took over two weeks of round-the-clock work to thaw.