

WATER WATCH

Connecticut

July 2021

Why Everyone Should Conserve

Across the western U.S., 20 years of record heat and low rainfall, coupled with high residential, industrial and agricultural water usage, have the region parched.



We're fortunate to live in a wetter, cooler area, and one with some of the lowest water rates in the country. But the climate is changing here, too. Droughts last year and in 2016 quickly reduced our water supplies, and required some radical measures to keep homes and businesses supplied. (Remember seeing emergency water pipes installed along the Merritt Parkway in 2016?)

The East also lacks the space to create reservoirs on the giant scale of those in the West. So we're far from being able to take local rainfalls for granted – especially with whatever climate change has up its sleeve for us, too.

Our greatest good fortune is the simplicity of saving water. Every day brings households many opportunities to avoid waste, whether it's a pint here and there, or thousands of gallons a year. Much of the water that's wasted is lost outdoors on our lawns and gardens. Broken or incorrectly set automatic irrigation systems can drench landscapes far beyond their needs, and day after day.

That's why we're urging everyone to limit outdoor watering to twice a week, even if you don't live in a town where that's not the rule (yet). If you have an irrigation system, have a licensed professional check it for leaks and faulty controllers. And please review the many other simple ways you can save water at www.aquarionwater.com/conserv.

Clear Facts About Discolored Water

Though we're constantly working to keep your water clear, safe and pure, occasionally it may be discolored.

This is usually just a temporary, easy fix. It's often caused when water flowing through a water main dramatically increases or changes direction. Unusually high usage – by fire-fighting activities, a main break, an open hydrant, scheduled water main cleaning, summer irrigation demands, an infrastructure project, or other factors – can also stir up naturally occurring mineral sediments in system water mains.

If it happens, hold off on using your water for drinking or cooking. Avoid doing laundry, too. Instead, run your cold water tap for five or ten minutes. (Don't run the hot water, as this could pull sediments into your hot water tank.) If running the cold tap doesn't work, wait an hour and try it again. The problem should go away.

Before we start infrastructure projects that might temporarily discolor your water, Aquarion will notify you by mail. And if you've signed up online for our reverse 911 alerts, you'll hear about it that way, as well. To sign up for reverse 911 alerts, visit www.aquarionwater.com/alerts.

For more information, check out www.aquarionwater.com/discoloredwater. If you have any other questions, please call Aquarion customer service at 1-800-732-9678 or email cs@aquarionwater.com.



Checking Your Local Water Quality

For detailed information on how the water we supply to your tap meets or exceeds the strict quality standards of both federal and state governments, head to www.aquarionwater.com/wqr. We prepared a report for each of the 75 systems we serve. The report includes facts about your local water sources, plus details on the thousands of water quality tests we perform on our water each year. And if you have any questions about your report, just call 1-800-832-2373, or email waterquality@aquarionwater.com.



Did You Know?

You still have time – but not much – to nominate someone (including yourself), an organization or business for Aquarion's Environmental Champion Awards. July 16 is the deadline. So hurry, and let's spotlight Connecticut's latest Environmental Champions! More information at www.aquarionwater.com/awards.



“Buy One, Get One” Free Ticket Deals

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Aquarion has arranged top deals for you at great attractions across Connecticut. Your choices include Stamford Museum and Nature Center, The Ridgefield Playhouse, Mystic Seaport Museum and Mystic Aquarium. Visit www.aquarionwater.com/freetickets for more information – and have fun!



Stamford Museum & Nature Center



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