



UTILITY TALK

July/August 2024

Providing safe and reliable water and gas services.

Serving Richmond, Henrico and North Chesterfield

Richmond Water is Quality

Did you know that 99.7 percent of the Earth's water is unusable by humans and other living things? This reality highlights the importance of protecting our precious water resources. August is Water Quality Month, a time to learn about how important clean water is and how we can help protect it. Water is life, and the City of Richmond Department of Public Utilities is dedicated to our mission of providing safe, clean and reliable utility services.

Our commitment is displayed through the quality of our water services, which include water, wastewater and stormwater management. The City of Richmond's Water Treatment Plant is at the frontline of this effort, excelling in the treatment and delivery of clean water directly to the taps of our customers. However, maintaining top water quality is a team effort. Our dedicated lab team rigorously tests thousands of samples annually to ensure that we consistently provide top-quality water.

Beyond providing clean water, Richmond DPU's wastewater and stormwater services play a crucial role in protecting and preserving our vital water source the James River. Our Wastewater Treatment Plant thoroughly cleans used water, ensuring it is safe to return to the James River.

Meanwhile, our stormwater team maintains drains and inlets to limit road flooding and ensure stormwater is safely routed back to the river, minimizing the impact of common pollutants that can travel through stormwater and are a tremendous contaminant to the river.

Citizens are a part of the team effort to maintain water quality as well. They can do their part limiting common stormwater pollutants by safely disposing of household hazardous waste (HHW). Common examples of HHW include turpentine, fuel, coolant, batteries, pesticides, herbicides, cleaners, paints and even electrical devices. Help eliminate environmental harm by reading warning labels and disposing of hazardous products properly. The East Richmond Road Convenience Center at 3800 East Richmond Road accepts HHW from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on weekdays, and from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturdays.

For those interested in the specifics of what makes our water so clean, we invite you to explore the details in our Consumer Confidence Report available at rva.gov/public-utilities/news.

Together, we can continue to protect one of our most valuable natural resources for future generations.



City of Richmond Water Treatment Plant



City of Richmond Wastewater Treatment Plant



Stormwater storm drain vacuum process

DID YOU KNOW?

The City of Richmond's Water Treatment Plant has been in operation for 100 years. Prior to the modernized plant, several methods were used to provide "good and pure water". In April 1828, a petition was filed and ultimately granted by the General Assembly in 1829 to construct iron pipes for the purpose of conducting water from the Canal Turning Basin down to what are now Cary and Main Streets. This was the first time the City was authorized to construct a distribution system beyond digging wells and providing pumps in various parts of the city.

Start Saving This Summer - Water Conservation Tips

As the temperatures rise, it's important to be mindful of water usage. By conserving water, we not only help the environment but also save money on our utility bills. Here are some simple and effective tips to help you conserve water this summer:

- 1 Use a Pool Cover:** Cover your pool to keep it clean, reduce chemical use and prevent water loss through evaporation. 
- 2 Wash Your Pets Outdoors:** Wash your pets in an area of your lawn that needs water to make the most of every drop. 
- 3 Adjust Your Lawn Mower Height:** Set your lawn mower to a height of 1.5 to 2 inches. Taller grass shades the roots and retains soil moisture better than shorter grass. 
- 4 Keep a Pitcher of Water in the Fridge:** Instead of running the tap, keep a pitcher of drinking water in the refrigerator. This ensures that every drop is used and not wasted. 
- 5 Use Organic Mulch:** Apply a layer of organic mulch on your planting beds. This minimizes weed growth that competes for water and helps plants retain moisture, saving water, time and money. 

By following these tips, you can make a big difference in conserving water during the summer months. Start saving water today!

August 11 is National Safe Digging Day

Before starting any digging project, whether you're a contractor, property owner, or excavator, it's essential to call Virginia 811. This August 11, the City of Richmond Department of Public Utilities is celebrating National Safe Digging Day (also known as 811 Day) with Virginia 811 to remind everyone about the importance of calling 811 before you dig.

Virginia 811 is a free service that marks all utility lines before you start digging. It can take up to three business days for utility operators to come out and mark their lines, so plan ahead. By calling 811 before you dig, you can avoid hitting underground utility lines, which can cause service disruptions, expensive damages and even serious injuries.



Always remember safety first, call 811 before you dig.

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