



What's on Tap

News for Customers of the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (WASA)

July 2007

Water quality report provides information about your drinking water

The federal Safe Drinking Water Act requires water utilities, like WASA, to provide consumers a yearly report on the source and quality of the water they drink. By July 1, you will receive WASA's Annual Water Quality Report with information about your drinking water – where the water comes from, what is in the water, how it is treated and how drinking water is distributed throughout the city.

Tap water in the District of Columbia is drawn from the Potomac River and treated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at the Washington



Aqueduct. WASA buys the water from the Aqueduct and distributes an average of 132 million gallons a day (mgd) to consumers in the nation's

capital through pumping stations and underground pipes.

The publication, WASA 2006 Drinking Water Quality Report*, also explains

the value of water in our everyday lives and what we can do to help

ensure a safe, reliable and sufficient water supply.

*Regulations require the report to cover the previous year.

Ensuring drinking water quality in your home

- Routinely remove and clean your faucet strainer or aerator – sediment can build up in the strainer
- Don't use hot water for cooking – use only cold water for cooking
- Regularly replace home water filters – replace every six months or as instructed by manufacturer

Water quality is a number one priority

WASA delivers approximately 135 million gallons a day (mgd) of drinking water to residents, businesses and visitors in the nation's capital. The quality of the water is closely monitored throughout a 1300-mile network of pipes and pumping stations.



WASA water quality technicians continuously test water in the city's distribution system.

In addition to federally required testing, WASA's team of water quality technicians collects and analyzes water samples from various locations in the distribution system, including residences, commercial buildings, schools, day care centers, and hydrants. More than 300 samples per month are taken, and results from these tests are available on the WASA website, www.dcwasa.com, under

the *Water Quality* section.

In addition, WASA deploys two mobile water quality laboratory vans daily to monitor the system and to respond quickly to customer water quality concerns and emergencies. To report water quality issues, please contact the WASA Water Quality Division at (202) 612-3440, Mon - Fri., 8:00 a.m.– 4:30 p.m. or (202) 612-3400, 24 hours a day.

Staying cool—DC heat emergency plan

During the summer months, temperatures in the District can reach unbearable levels. When the *heat index* reaches 95 degrees Fahrenheit, the District government implements a heat emergency plan to protect the city's most vulnerable residents. (The *heat index* is an accurate measure of how hot it really feels when the effects of humidity are added to high temperature.)

Key components of the Heat Emergency Plan include:

- Activation of street showers by the DC Housing Authority (DCHA)
- Opening of cooling centers in senior citizens facilities, District government buildings and other locations
- Extension of hours at selected public swimming

pool facilities

- Distribution of fans to special needs populations

District Cooling Centers

- Arthur Capper, 601 L Street, SE
- Carroll Apartments, 410 M Street, SE
- Fort Lincoln, 2855 Bladensburg Road, NE
- Garfield, 2301 11th Street, NW
- Horizon House, 1150 12th Street, NW
- James Apartments, 1425 N Street, NW
- Knox Hill, 2700 Jasper Street, SE
- LeDroit, 234 W Street, NW
- Sibley Plaza, 1140 North Capitol Street, NW
- Regency House, 5201 Connecticut Avenue, NW

see [Heat emergency plan](#) on back

Hurricane season returns

Forecasters are expecting a busy hurricane season (June 1 – November 30) this year. According to *USA Today*, research teams at Colorado State and North Carolina universities and AccuWeather have joined the National Weather Service in predicting seven to 10 hurricanes around the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico.

Coastal areas are not the only ones affected by hurricanes, because the high winds and heavy rains often cause significant wind and flood damage inland as well. Remember Hurricane Isabel and Tropical Storm Gaston?

When you hear reports of a hurricane,



make sure you are prepared with:

- A family emergency plan and phone numbers
- First Aid supplies
- Flashlights and batteries instead of candles
- Water and food
- Battery operated radio

Also, remember to have items on hand for family members with special needs, such as infants and elderly or disabled persons.

"Get More; Buy in DC" program is a boost for homeownership

Recently, there has been an increased concern over the number of sub-prime mortgage loans and subsequent foreclosures in the housing market. The sub-prime loans often attract individuals who desperately want to become homeowners without realizing how difficult repaying the loan may be in the future. Circumstances, like poor credit histories, low incomes, or lower assessed home values, may have been too risky for other types of mortgage loans.

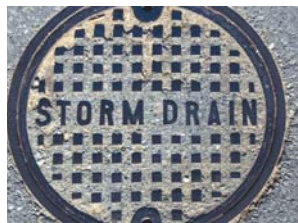
The District of Columbia Housing Finance Agency (HFA) offers an alternative to these high-cost mortgage loans through its DC Bond Program. The program provides below-market loans to eligible individuals buying a home in Washington. Unlike the sub-prime mortgage, the interest rates in the DC Bond Program (as low as 5.6 percent) are pre-set and do not change. Individuals interested in becoming homeowners in Washington should contact the HFA's Home Resource Center at (202) 777-HOME to learn more about the DC Bond Program.



Preparing for summer storms

When major storm systems approach the District of Columbia, WASA's Department of Sewer Services goes on full alert. Crews visit areas that tend to flood regularly and clean out the catch basins in those areas. In addition, WASA also conducts inspections to ensure that stormwater pumping stations and backup generators are working.

When major rain events are approaching, please pick up trash and leaves from your side-



walk and street. Rain can cause trash to flow into the catch basins, clog the sewers and ultimately end up in our area waterways.

If you experience flooding caused by a back up in the sewer system during a major storm, you can call our 24-hour Emergency Line at (202) 612-3400.

Heat emergency plan *continued from front*

During heat emergencies, United Planning Organization vans will canvass various areas throughout the city to identify persons suffering from the heat and transport them to cooling centers. Persons who need transportation to

cooling centers can call the Hyperthermia Hotline at (202) 399-7093.

WASA reminds you to keep your elderly neighbors in mind during the summer months, by frequently checking on them.

For more information, visit WASA's website at www.dcwasa.com.

Para informar emergencias del agua residuales, llama (202) 612-3400.

Report Emergencies 24 Hours a day!

To report improper use of hydrants, clogged catch basins, water main leaks, or suspected sewer backups, call (202) 612-3400.

To reach WASA's Lead Services Line, call (202) 787-2732.

