

Help Mother Nature While Lowering Your Bill

Spring and summer are gorgeous times of year in Washington. Starting in early April, tulips and daffodils begin to emerge, blanketing fresh green landscapes with brilliant bursts of color. And deep blue skies are dotted with our beautiful cherry blossoms, dogwoods and magnolias. Plenty of spring showers, courtesy of Mother Nature, provide all the water our gardens need—until summer. Once temperatures rise, and rain becomes less frequent, Washington residents must supply what Mother Nature doesn't to maintain our living masterpieces.

Helping Mother Nature, however, can be costly. So WASA is proud to offer its customers a new, money-saving program. Starting in late June, District residents will be able to sub meter water for gardening, landscaping or any other use that is not returned to the



sewer system. The monthly charge for residential sub meters is as low as \$2.01 for a 5/8" meter and \$3.92 for a 2" meter.

To take advantage of this new system, a licensed plumber will need to install a service line and make sure your

We love to hear your feedback.

Welcome to this edition of *What's On Tap*, a monthly newsletter designed to focus on our most important resource: you, our valued customer. It's our way of keeping you up-to-date on changes at WASA that affect your service, and even more importantly, how you are served. If you see something of interest, don't hesitate to give us your feedback—we'd love to hear from you. Feel free to call Public Affairs at 202-787-2200. Or e-mail us at info@dcwasa.com.

Easy Bill Paying Is Automatic

Remember, WASA offers a number of convenient ways for you to pay your bill.

One option is our Automatic Bill Payment program, where deductions are made automatically from your bank account each month. We also offer electronic billing and automatic credit card payments. All of these methods are easy to set up, and save you the time, hassle and expense of mailing in your payment or paying in person. To enroll, simply visit our web site, www.dcwasa.com, or speak with one of our customer service representatives at 202-354-3600.

installation is meter-ready. Then WASA will install a sub meter. Once installed, you will be charged for the water registering through the sub meter only, and not for sewer usage. Be sure to thank your neighbors for this new amenity—our customers asked for this program, and we were happy to implement it. If you'd like any more information, please contact one of our Customer Service

Representatives at 202-354-3600 for more information.



Summer Water Conservation Tips

Here are a few tips to help you keep your lawn healthy and your water bill down:

- Water early. Your lawn absorbs more water before 10:00 a.m. because less of it evaporates.
- Water your lawn only when it begins to show signs of stress. Some of these signs include dull foliage, leaf blades that are beginning to roll, and grass that does not spring back when you walk on it.
- Use a tuna can! Most lawns need only about an inch of water a week. If it's hot, an inch every three days is plenty. So place an empty tuna can on your lawn while you water. When the can is full, you know you've watered the correct amount.
- There's no need to water after heavy rains. Your plants and lawn won't need to be watered for 10 to 14 days.
- Set a kitchen timer. Did you know outdoor faucets can flow at rates as high as 300 gallons per hour? To help you remember when it's time to shut the water off, set a kitchen timer or invest in a sprinkler timer.
- Know what your plants need. Not all shrubs and trees need the same amount of water. To be sure, check with your nursery.
- Look around your yard. Take notice of where it has the most shade and where it is dry. Try to place plants that need more water in areas that are more likely to retain it. By grouping plants with similar needs together, you can save water and keep your lawn beautiful at the same time.
- Keep it healthy. To keep your landscape looking its best, keep up on fertilizer, and weed and pest control. Aerate lawns annually to make sure the roots are getting the correct amount of water.

Report Emergencies 24 Hours A Day!

It's easy to get in touch with WASA. Use our hotline number to report improper use of hydrants, catch basins that have become clogged with leaves, water leaks or suspected sewer backups.

24-Hour Emergency Hotline: 202-612-3400

The Main Ingredient

CHILLED CUCUMBER SOUP

(6 servings)

Ingredients

- 2 cucumbers, peeled
- 1 tablespoon salt
- 2 garlic cloves, crushed to a paste
- 2 tablespoons fresh mint, chopped
- 21/2 cups plain yogurt
- $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups cold WASA water
- pepper to taste
- 1 lemon, quartered sesame seeds (optional)

Directions

Shred cucumber on large holes of a cheese grater or chop with a knife. Sprinkle with salt and let sit for 20 minutes in a colander to remove excess liquid. Rinse cucumber well under cold running WASA water to eliminate any excess saltiness. Drain.

Combine cucumber, garlic, mint and yogurt. Thin with WASA water, as needed. Season with pepper. Refrigerate at least one hour; chilling overnight will enhance flavors. Sprinkle with sesame seeds, if desired. Garnish with lemon slices.

Want to see your favorite WASA water recipe featured in "What's On Tap"? Just send your name, address, phone number and clearly printed recipe to:

District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority Public Affairs Office - Favorite Recipes 5000 Overlook Ave, SW Washington, DC 20032

Remember—you can pay your bill online at www.dcwasa.com

District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority

Customer Service Department 810 First Street, NE Washington, DC 20002 Customer Service: 202-354-3600

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