

Your Water News Resource



Cottonwood
Water & Sanitation District

Next Meeting of the Board

Thursday, Feb. 15, 2023 @ 6:30pm
at the Cottonwood Meeting House
8334 Sandreed Circle, Parker, CO 80134

The Public is Invited to Attend



Garden with Style and Efficiency This Year with Garden in a Box

Resource Central has released a sneak peek of the Garden-in-a-Box program for 2024. This program makes low-water gardening easy by offering a selection of professionally designed water smart kits that include plants, planting maps with instructions, and watering recommendations. There are different styles for different gardens, and all kits include native plants that are attractive to local pollinators like bees and butterflies. Kits sell out quickly, so **sign up using the website or qr code below** for the interest list to be notified of when gardens are available for purchase. Cottonwood Water and Sanitation District offers our customers a \$75 rebate for a purchased Garden-in-a-Box up to \$5,000. Act fast, this offer is available only on a first-come, first-served basis.

Learn more at resourcecentral.org/gardens or by using the QR code:



Have you previously purchased and planted a Garden in a Box?

We'd love to feature your beautiful, water-efficient garden in our newsletter!
Please contact Becca@MulhernMRE.com for more information.

- EASY - GREEN THUMBS NOT REQUIRED** (Icon: hand holding a seedling)
- SAVE WATER WITH LOW WATER PLANTS** (Icon: watering can)
- STARTER PLANTS FOR INSTANT CURB APPEAL** (Icon: flowers)
- ATTRACT THE "LOCALS"** (Icon: butterfly)
- PRO DESIGN WITHOUT THE COST** (Icon: price tag)
- EASY - GREEN THUMBS NOT REQUIRED** (Icon: person gardening)

What to do About a Burst Pipe

During colder weather, especially when temperatures drop below zero, pipes can freeze and form a blockage of ice. This blockage leads to increased pressure and can cause the pipe to burst. Burst pipes can cause thousands of dollars in damage, so it's important to know what to do so you can act quickly.

The following things might be indicators that you've had a ruptured pipe: puddles, water pressure problems, wall stains, high water bill, water and mildew smells, water sounds, and pipe noises.

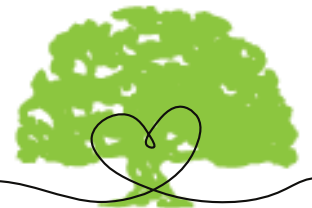
Follow these steps to address a burst pipe in your house:

- Turn off the main shut-off in your home to keep more water from flooding in (this is usually found in your basement or crawl space)
- Call a plumber as soon as possible
- Clean up the water
 - Standing water can create excess damage and encourages mold and mildew to grow. Clean this up quickly to avoid irreparable damage.
- Drain your faucets to remove the water left in the system
- Take inventory of damage
- Contact your insurance agent
- Prevent it from happening again
 - Open any cupboards under sinks on outside walls to increase air circulation
 - Keep thermostats of unoccupied houses at 55°F-60°F or winterize before vacating
- EyeOnWater can always help you to stay on top of your use and also advise you if a broken pipe has occurred within the home
 - Learn more on our website at www.cottonwoodwater.org



Rate Increase

As of January 1, 2024, the new rates for water usage are effective. This will be reflected on this bill. The tables below show the change in rates. Remember, **your water usage from December-March determines your winter average**, so conserve water now to keep your water bills lower through the whole year.



Cottonwood
Water & Sanitation District

58 Inverness Drive East #100
Englewood, CO 80112

During normal business hours call:
303-792-9509
After-Hours Water Emergencies:
303-426-3167

Visit Our Website:
www.cottonwoodwater.org

Tier:	Water Use Fees			Wastewater Use Fees		
	2023 Water Service Fee Per 1,000 Gallons	2024 Water Service Fee Per 1,000 Gallons	Percentage of Yr to Yr Increase	2023 Sewer Service Fee Per 1,000 Gallons	2024 Sewer Service Fee Per 1,000 Gallons	Percentage of Year to Year Increase
Conserving: Use up to 100% of Allocation	\$4.60	\$4.72	2.50%	\$8.84	\$9.10	3.00%
Excessive: Use exceeds the Conserving tier, up to 150%	\$9.20	\$9.43				
Abusive: Use exceeds the Excessive tier	\$13.81	\$14.15				

Water & Wastewater Base Fees

Base Fee	2023		2024		Percentage of Yr to Yr Increase	
	Water	Sewer	Water	Sewer	Water	Sewer
	\$21.94	\$15.30	\$22.48	\$15.30	2.50%	0.00%

Cottonwood Water and Sanitation District participated in EPA’s Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) program in 2023 and tested for a group of unregulated chemicals scientifically known as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances or PFAS. The water sample results received in October 2023 showed that certain PFAS chemicals, PFOA and/or PFOS, are present in the drinking water. The EPA released interim lifetime health advisories in June 2022 and proposed drinking water standards in March 2023 for PFOA and PFOS. EPA anticipated finalizing the rule by the end of 2023. Cottonwood Water is working closely with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) on possible next steps to understand and evaluate this concern.

These chemicals have been used in firefighting foam and other consumer products and can affect your health. For more information on PFAS, please visit the CDPHE website: <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/pfas>. For more information on UCMR, please visit the EPA website: epa.gov/dwucmr/occurrence-data-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule.

PFAS	Interim health advisory	Proposed drinking water standard	The level in your water:	What this means:
PFOA	0.004 parts per trillion	4.0 parts per trillion	4.0 parts per trillion	This is at the health advisory and proposed drinking water standard. Vulnerable populations should consider taking action to reduce exposure.
PFOS	0.02 parts per trillion	4.0 parts per trillion	<4.0 parts per trillion	PFOA was not detected.*

*The lowest level the laboratory can report accurately measured results for PFOA and PFOS for EPA’s UCMR testing is 4 parts per trillion.

These health advisories are set to protect all people, including sensitive populations and life stages (such as infants), from negative health impacts as a result of lifetime exposure to PFAS in drinking water.

The current health advisories for PFOA and PFOS are based on human studies in populations exposed to these chemicals. PFOA and PFOS can:

- Impact the immune system.
- Increase cholesterol.
- Decrease infant birth weight.
- Cause changes in liver function.
- Causes preeclampsia and high blood pressure during pregnancy.
- Cause effects on thyroid hormones.
- Increase the risk of kidney and testicular cancer (PFOA).

More vulnerable populations

Children ages 0-5 years, and people who are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or breastfeeding are more susceptible to health impacts from these chemicals. Visit <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/pfas-health> for more information.

What actions should I consider? What does this mean?

- People do not need to stop drinking their water as current health advisories are based on a lifetime of exposure. However, the lower the levels of PFOA and PFOS, the lower the risk. There are ways for individuals who are concerned about PFAS in their drinking water or from other sources to reduce exposure.
 - There is not an immediate public health risk.
 - CDPHE will keep providing facts to help inform the public on the latest science.
 - There are certain higher risk groups that may want to reduce their exposure.

- People can reduce their exposure from drinking water by using water treated by an [in-home water treatment filter](#) that is certified to lower the levels of PFAS or by using bottled water that has been treated with reverse osmosis for drinking, cooking, and preparing baby formula. Use tap water for bathing, showering, brushing teeth, washing hands, watering yards, washing dishes, cleaning, and laundry.
 - Using bottled water is an individual choice, but there are important concerns with bottled water. CDPHE cannot verify that all bottled water is below PFAS interim health advisories. Reverse osmosis is a treatment that removes PFAS. We recommend people who use bottled water choose a brand that has been treated with reverse osmosis and includes this language on the bottle. Additionally, bottled water does not contain fluoride to support oral health and creates solid waste and other environmental concerns.
 - Boiling, freezing, or letting water stand does not reduce PFAS levels.
- There are many sources of PFAS in the environment, people may consider reducing exposure from other sources. Visit <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/pfas-health> to learn more.
- If you have specific health concerns, talk to your doctor. An information sheet, "Talking to your health care provider about PFAS," is available at <https://bit.ly/PFAS-doctor>.

What is Cottonwood Water and Sanitation District doing to address the situation?

Cottonwood is collaborating with the CDPHE to address this matter. Additionally, Cottonwood will provide ongoing updates to its customers throughout the year as PFAS samples of its drinking water from the JWPP become available. The JWPP utilizes renewable water from the Cherry Creek alluvium before treatment, which involves a blend of Reverse Osmosis and Micro-Filtration technologies. Cottonwood Water recently implemented operational changes at the JWPP to reduce PFOAs below 4.0 ppt by decreasing the Micro-Filtration treatment portion at the plant. This operational adjustment will also result in a reduction of our renewable supplies from Cherry Creek by nearly 50,000,000 gallons in 2024. All PFAS results and information can be accessed on our website at www.cottonwoodwater.org.

Additional PFAS information can be found at <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/pfas>.

<p>If you have questions about this information, you can also contact CO HELP at 303-389-1687 or 1-877-462-2911.</p>

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, tenants, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in public places or by distributing copies by hand.