

Stop Toilet Leaks Save Money and Water

Your Water. Connection

NEWS & TIPS FOR TUCSON WATER CUSTOMERS

Conservation Corner continued from inside

Step 2: Prepare to Repair

Before you start repair work, turn off the toilet water valve and flush to empty the tank.

Step 3: Easy Fixes for Common Leaks

Problem: Toilet runs continuously/may gurgle

Possible fixes:

- 1) Check out the float arm and ball. Adjust the float arm and ball to see if the water flow stops. If the toilet still runs, you may need to replace the float arm and ball. Also check the float arm ball to ensure that it isn't filling with water.
- 2) Flapper sticking open or not seating properly. Flappers become misshapen in just a few years and should be replaced every 3-5 years.
- 3) Check the ballcock/water fill mechanism. If the overflow tube is cracked, replace it. Replace washers on the top of the ballcock or replace entire ballcock.

Problem: Toilet 'flushes by itself'

Possible fixes:

- 1) Check to see how the flapper is working and replace if necessary.
- 2) Examine the ballcock/water fill mechanism.

Problem: Flapper closes before the tank empties

Try this: Adjust the flapper chain or guide wire (older toilets) connected to the flapper.

Tucson Water offers some great publications on how to detect and repair expensive water wasting leaks inside and outside the home at www.tucsonaz.gov/water/homeowner.htm or by calling 791-4331.

Other sources for repair info can also be found on line, at the public library, a handy friend, or a trusted plumber.

*Fewer Mosquitoes
is the Goal*

Changes Planned at Sweetwater Wetlands

Mosquitoes are the number one enemy at the Sweetwater Wetlands, 175 acres near the Roger Road Wastewater Treatment Facility. In March Tucson Water will launch a new permanent change to the Wetlands that will remove 50% of the dense bulrush and cattail habitat where mosquitoes breed and hide. Over the next two years, water will be drained from select areas, dense vegetation removed, and a heavy plastic liner installed. The result? When the lined basins are refilled, there will be more open shallow water that is:

- More inviting to wading and shore birds
- More accessible to mosquito larvae-eating fish
- Less attractive to adult mosquitoes looking for places to lay eggs and hide
- Equally effective for wastewater treatment

The new permanent vegetation removal and liner program is the latest tool in an aggressive mosquito abatement program that includes

Mosquitoes continued inside

Have a question for Water 101 or a suggestion for a topic? Call us at 791-4331 or e-mail to TW_Web1@ci.tucson.az.us

Fewer Mosquitoes is the Goal

Changes Planned at Sweetwater Wetlands

Mosquitoes continued from front

targeted applications of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved larvicide and more rigorous mosquito monitoring.

Located adjacent to Tucson Water's Reclaimed Water Treatment Plant, the Sweetwater Wetlands is a wildlife haven and performs an important step in cleaning 1.5 million gallons of reclaimed water daily. For more information about the Sweetwater Wetlands, go to www.tucsonaz.gov/water/sweetwater.htm. To schedule a guided tour of the Wetlands, contact Tucson Water at 791-4331.

Mosquito Protection Tips:

Here are some easy ways to avoid mosquitoes and the diseases they can carry like encephalitis and West Nile virus:

- Avoid outside activity from dusk to dawn, when mosquitoes are out in force
- Change water at least twice weekly in outdoor flower pots, pet bowls, and bird baths
- Mosquito-proof your home by using screens and closing outside doors
- Wear protective clothing outside
- Use insect repellent

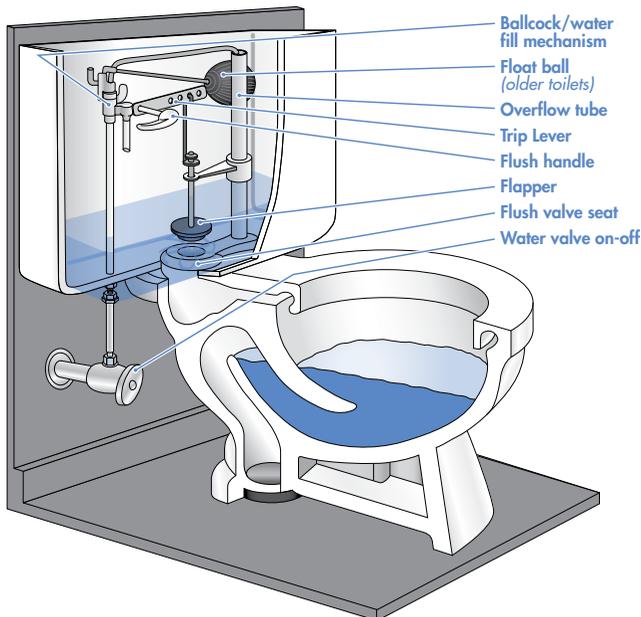
For more tips and free publications about mosquitoes, visit www.tucsonaz.gov/water/pubs-gi.htm or call 740-3191.

Conservation Corner

Stop Toilet Leaks Save Money and Water

- **Has your water bill sky rocketed for no apparent reason?**
- **Does your toilet flush itself?**
- **Can you hear the sound of running water, long after flushing?**

If you answered 'yes' to any of these questions, you may have a leaky toilet. A leaky toilet can cost you money and waste up to 100 gallons of water every day. Approximately 20% of all toilets leak – Is your toilet a water-waster?



Here are some simple steps to detect and repair common toilet leaks.

Step 1: Conduct a Leak Test

Remove the tank lid, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank water, and wait at least 15 minutes. If the color shows up in the toilet bowl, then your toilet has a leak.

*Conservation Corner
continued on back*



On the Water Front

Our community is talking, and we're listening.

A number of environmental issues, like climate change, are becoming more frequent topics of conversation. Tucson Water is also interested in these issues and is working to learn more and provide that information to you.

Climate change and its effect on our environment and water supplies is of great interest to all of us in our desert community. The utility has already begun to address this in our Drought Preparedness and Response Plan completed last year. You can view our Drought Plan on our web site, www.tucsonaz.gov/water.

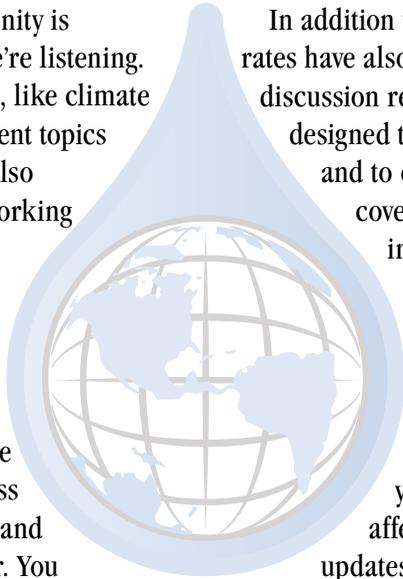
In addition, we're involved in discussions with state and national climate and water resource organizations and closely following the latest research in order to learn more about how climate change could affect our water supply and our operations.

We're also considering the impacts of climate change in our 2008 Long Range Water Plan update. In the near future that plan will be available to you on our web site and in other venues.

In addition to environmental issues, water rates have also been a topic of community discussion recently. Our rate structure is designed to consider the average customer and to encourage wise water use. We've covered the rate setting process here in the past, but in the future we'll have more detailed information about that process, and, as always, the rates in general for you.

Tucson Water wants to keep you informed about issues that affect your water. You can find updates on many subjects at our web site or by calling 791-4331.

Dave Modeer
Director, Tucson Water



Clearwater Quality Report - Most recent water quality data (January 7 - February 6, 2008)

63	Sodium (mg/L) (Feb. 1)
373.8	Mineral (mg/L) (Jan. 7, Jan. 23 - Feb. 1 avg.)
198	Hardness (mg/L) (Feb. 1)
7.86	pH (S.U.) (Jan. 23 - Feb. 1 avg.)
Neg	Coliform Bacteria (Jan. 24)
0.9	Chlorine level (mg/L) (Jan. 7 - Feb. 1 avg.)
73.9	Temp (deg F) (Jan. 7 - Feb. 1 avg.)

Visit the Tucson Water Web site at www.tucsonaz.gov/water

Your *Water Connection* is produced by Tucson Water. To receive a copy, or to receive this information in Spanish, call 791-4331 or mail your request to: Tucson Water, Customer Information, P.O. Box 27210, Tucson, AZ 85726-7210.

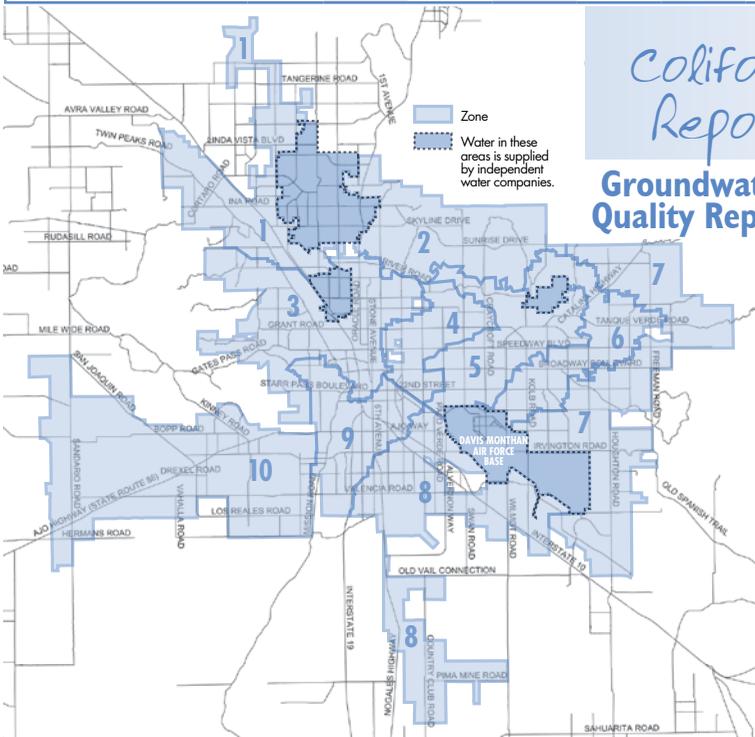
City of Tucson TTY number: 791-2639

Si usted desea este documento escrito en español, por favor llame al 791-4331.



Groundwater Quality Report - January 2008

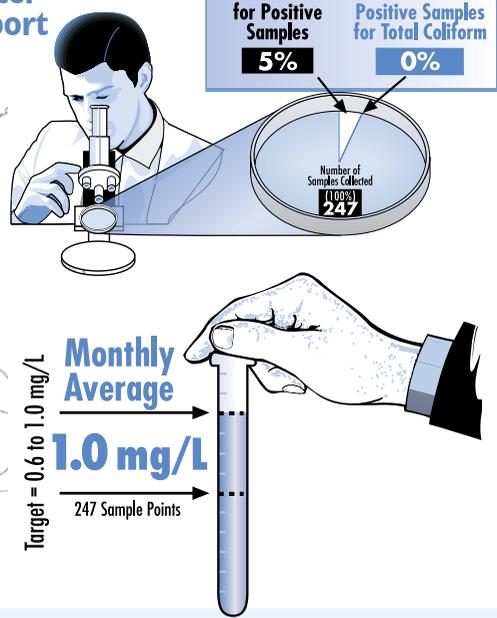
Water Quality Zone		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	System Wide
Sodium (mg/L)* 72 SAMPLING POINTS	Average Range	55 50-61	54 46-59	54 34-66	38 30-53	41 27-59	43 32-50	35 26-47	43 38-45	46 42-52	47 42-56	45 26-66
Mineral Content (mg/L)* 247 SAMPLING POINTS	Average Range	329 174-454	394 323-444	404 241-486	280 195-434	307 186-435	345 228-431	266 180-430	372 296-450	330 214-560	299 212-439	335 174-560
Hardness (mg/L)* 72 SAMPLING POINTS	Average Range	176 101-223	181 168-189	172 120-232	110 84-160	124 81-186	149 120-166	126 93-174	202 170-227	106 76-156	115 76-167	145 76-232
pH (S.U.) 247 SAMPLING POINTS	Average Range	7.9 7.5-8.1	7.9 7.6-8.1	7.9 7.7-8.1	7.9 7.5-8.1	7.8 7.3-8.1	7.9 7.7-8.3	8.0 7.6-8.5	7.6 7.5-7.8	7.8 7.3-8.0	7.9 7.7-8.2	7.9 7.3-8.5
Temperature (deg F) 247 SAMPLING POINTS	Average Range	69 64-73	69 58-75	69 61-74	71 61-79	70 62-81	70 62-79	68 62-75	69 61-74	71 63-78	70 65-78	70 58-81



Coliform Bacteria Testing Report - January 2008

Groundwater Quality Report

EPA Standard for Positive Samples	Number of Positive Samples for Total Coliform
5%	0%



* mg/L means milligrams per liter; 1 mg/L = 1 teaspoon in 1,302 gallons

** 17.1 milligrams per liter (mg/L) = 1 grain per gallon; Therefore, the system-wide hardness average as reported for January 2008: 174 mg/L divided by 17.1 = 8.48 grains per gallon.

To give you a more accurate measurement of the water quality in your neighborhood, the Tucson Water service area has been divided into 10 zones based on differences in water pressure and water quality. For a detailed description of the zone boundaries, call 791-4331.

With the exception of chlorine and coliform bacteria, none of the water quality parameters reported here have U.S. Environmental Protection Agency primary standards set for them. For more information about primary and secondary water quality standards, visit Tucson Water's Web site at www.tucsonaz.gov/water.