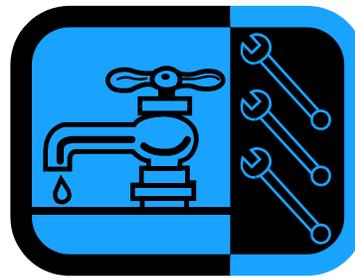


What Can You Do?

Treat your utility nicely in order to avoid paying a higher bill!

- Do not flush hair down your drain! Buy a cheap drain protector for your bathtubs and sinks to collect hairs.
- Do not dump grease, oil, or fat down the sink! Instead, pour grease and fat into a jar and throw it away in the trash.
- Do not flush baby wipes, diapers, tampons, condoms, or anything else besides toilet paper down the toilet! Even if something says “flushable,” it does not break apart the way toilet paper does.
- Do not litter or dump any chemicals on the ground. Anything going on the ground goes into your drinking water source and increases the cost of treatment.



For more information on public utilities, visit these websites:

Healthandwelfare.idaho.gov

Deq.idaho.gov

Idahoruralwater.com

Understanding Your

Public

Utilities



A guide to drinking water and wastewater

Idaho Rural Water Association
6065 W Corporal Ln
Boise, ID 83704
(208) 343-7001
www.idahoruralwater.com



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Drinking Water

- Drinking water facilities that serve over a certain number of individuals are classified as public systems.
- These systems must follow rules set forth by the Federal Government.
- The Federal Government requires that public water systems have skilled specialists running them to ensure the water at your house is safe to drink.

Wastewater

- Wastewater is dirty water that leaves your house through drains, clothes washers, dishwashers, and when you flush the toilet.
- This water travels to a collection facility where it is treated.
- Wastewater facilities that serve over a certain number of people are classified as public and are subject to federal rules.
- Wastewater facilities require skilled specialists to run them and make sure your waste is handled in a sanitary way.

Utility Bills

Why do you have to pay a utility bill?

Daily operation of your public utilities takes money. Pumping drinking water and wastewater through the pipes requires electric power, which costs money. It also costs money to replace parts that break or get too old to work. Public utilities are required by law to take many expensive samples each month. They also must pay the employees that run them.

Excess snow and ice, wildfires, droughts, drinking water contamination, and pipe breaks are some examples of events that can cost your utility a lot of money if it is damaged.

You pay a bill so that you can enjoy safe drinking water at your home and be able to flush your toilet.

Why do bills go up?

Unfortunately, the cost of running and maintaining public utilities grows each year.

The costs for electricity are always increasing. The environmental standards set by the EPA are often changing, which requires utilities to upgrade in order to meet the new laws.

One of the biggest causes of rate increases is improper behavior from community residents. People often unknowingly damage their public utilities. Then the utility must spend money in order to fix the damage.