

Vol. 29 No. 3 2016

Wise water use

As the summer progresses, we offer a few suggestions for more efficient use of water:

- Water in the early morning, 4 to 10 a.m., to allow grass blades to dry, making them less susceptible to diseases. Watering is more efficient in the morning due to less evaporation and wind speed. Do not water if it is windy.
- Measure the amount of water applied to your lawn in a 15-minute period using a tuna can. Adjust the run time on your sprinkler system to deliver the required amount. Contact a lawn care professional if you need help.
- To conserve water, make sure your sprinkler heads are in working order and directed on your lawn and not on sidewalks, driveways and streets. Use sprinklers that emit large droplets, again to reduce losses due to evaporation.
- Check hose connections for leaks, and repair them quickly. A single hose left on uses nearly 300 gallons of water an hour!
- Use a broom to clean patios, sidewalks and driveways.

Connect with us on **Facebook and Twitter**

Check out our Facebook page at mudomahane for news, helpful tips, fun facts and photos of our community activities.

Follow us on Twitter at mudomahane to receive news and alerts, including water or gas emergency work.

We ask that you avoid posting account specific information. If you have a question about your account, please call 402.554.6666 or email customer service@mudnebr.com.

To report a gas leak or water emergency 24/7, please call 402.554.7777.



A remote rain sensor shut-off device is a good way to conserve water. We offer a \$50 rebate on any rain sensor device installed in 2016 by a licensed lawn sprinkler contractor. For details, visit www.mudomaha.com or call 402.504.7981.

Mowing and landscaping tips

- Reduce mowing frequency. Mowing creates openings in the ends of each grass blade, allowing them to lose water.
- Sharpen the mower blade. Keeping the blade sharp will decrease the size of the openings made in each turf blade.
- Raise the mowing height to 2 1/2 to 3 inches for bluegrass and 3 to 4 inches for tall fescue. This creates a canopy effect and the lawn benefits from increased shading and less evaporation.
- Return grass clippings to the lawn using a recycling type mower. A light sprinkling of clippings will act as a mulch for the grass plants, hold in soil moisture, and keep the crowns cooler. Avoid clumps of clippings which can smother turf plants.
- When planting trees or shrubs, Call Nebraska 811 at least two business days before you dig. This is a free service and all utilities will be located and marked in your yard. If planting near a gas meter, keep shrubs trimmed so meter readers have access to read the dials on the meter.

Lawn care tips adapted from an article by UNL Extension Office Educator and Certified Arborist John Fech. Visit the Extension's website at http://water.unl.edu/landscapes for more tips on lawn and landscape care, and information on drinking water, hydrology, drought, wetlands and more.



As soon as you select a moving date, please notify us at least two business days in advance. If you plan to move during a holiday weekend, it is best to contact us one week prior as these are popular days to move.

Moving this fall?

If you need to start, stop or transfer service, find request forms at www.mudomaha.com. Or, call Customer Service at 402.554.6666 with your requests.

In our effort to offer reduced processing fees, customers can opt to use the Customer Read Program. This program gives you the option to read your own meters and provide the District with your readings at the start of service. If you choose <u>not</u> to use this option, monthly route readings will be used to process your request at the regular processing fee.

In some cases, if services have already been turned off, a technician must come to restore service and read both meters.

There is a charge to turn on or transfer service to a different address. An activation fee will appear on your bill. There is no charge to turn off services.

Water meters are located inside the majority of homes and businesses. You may need to schedule an appointment and provide access to your meter.

Buying a house?

If you are buying a house, check with the seller or your Realtor about the existing water service or private line. Ask when it was installed and if there have been repairs.

When the water service line is very old and made of a material that can corrode, it may deteriorate. If the water service line leaks, you are responsible for repairs. Codes require that repairs be made by a master plumber, licensed by your city.

Help neighbors in need via Heat Aid Fund

The Heat Aid Fund, established in 1983, has helped more than 30,000 seniors, people with disabilities and families in crisis with their utility bills. Administered by The Salvation Army, the Fund relies on donations from customers. It is easy to donate:

- Write an amount on your M.U.D. bill remittance. You can begin a monthly pledge or make a one-time donation.
- Download and complete the "Give to Heat Aid" form at www.mudomaha.com.
- Mail contributions directly to: Heat Aid Fund, Salvation Army 10755 Burt St.
 Omaha, NE 68114

Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Consult your tax advisor.

Why does natural gas smell like rotten eggs?

Natural gas originally has no odor and is invisible. For your safety, we add a harmless



chemical called mercaptan so you can detect a gas leak. Most people describe the smell as rotten eggs or a skunky odor.

If you smell natural gas:

- 1. Immediately leave the building or area. Do not use a light switch or phone until everyone is at a safe distance.
- 2. Call 911 or M.U.D.'s emergency number: 402.554.7777, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. There is no charge to check leaks.



Gas, Water Emergencies 24/7:Call 402.554.7777

Customer Service:

Call 402.554.6666 or 800.732.5864 Email customer_service@mudnebr.com