



Charleston's tap water named among the nation's best

Charleston Water System's drinking water was ranked fourth in the nation in a study by the Environmental Working Group (EWG), a research and advocacy group.

The EWG developed a national drinking water database and ranked utilities based on the results of water quality testing performed since 2004. To read the report, visit www.charlestonwater.com.

Top Rated Water Utilities

1. Arlington Water Utilities, Arlington, TX
2. Providence Water, Providence, RI
3. Fort Worth Water Dept, Ft. Worth, TX
4. **Charleston Water System, Charleston, SC**
5. Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, Boston, MA

Fix that leak!

How long have you been ignoring that pitter-patter coming from the shower? How about the leaky spigot on the side of the house, or that running toilet? While leaks might sometimes seem like small problems, over time they can waste both valuable water resources and your money.

On average, a US household can leak 11,000 gallons of water per year—enough to fill a backyard swimming pool!

March 15 – 21 is Fix a Leak Week! Visit www.epa.gov/watersense for tips on repairing leaks.



Fix a Leak Week

What to do in a water emergency

Know how to turn off your home's water supply

Don't wait until you have a leaking water heater or broken pipe to learn how to turn off your home's water supply.

For single family homes:

- . The water shut off valve is typically located in the ground near your outdoor spigot.
- . Check it periodically to make sure it's accessible.

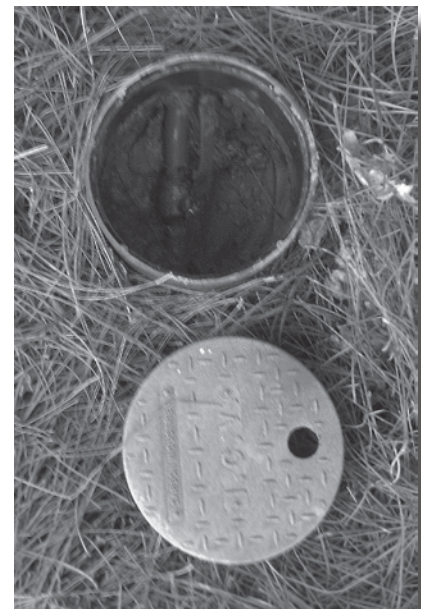
For an apartment or condo:

- . Ask the maintenance staff what you should do in the event of a water leak.
- . Involve your neighbors. If something breaks while you are away they can help prevent property damage.

If you have a water leak in your home or in the yard on your side of the water meter, it's best to call a plumber if you are unable to make the repair.

Charleston Water System is responsible for water pipes in the street. If you spot a leak in the public right-of-way, call our 24-hour Customer Service line at 843-727-6800 to report it.

If you're unsure who to call, contact us.



Make sure you know where your home's water shut off valve is located—it's typically in the ground near an outdoor spigot, in line with your water meter.

Is your yard ready for Spring?

As the temperatures rise, so does landscape irrigation. But experts estimate that half of all landscape watering is lost to evaporation or runoff from overwatering.

You can prevent water waste by using mulch around plants to hold moisture, installing drip irrigation in plant beds, and most importantly, not overwatering your lawn. Grass will show you when it needs water: look for footprints, a bluish-gray color, or wilted grass blades. When you do water your lawn, do it before dawn to minimize evaporation.

If you're planning on doing a lot of yard watering, consider installing a second water meter for your irrigation system. Getting a separate irrigation meter offers long-term savings on your water bill because you don't pay wastewater charges. To find out if an irrigation meter is a good option for you, visit our web site or call 843-727-6800.

Learn about environmentally friendly landscaping at the Tri-County Carolina Yard Experience!

Saturday, March 13th, 9 – 2
Charleston Exchange Park, Ladson

Learn how to create a beautiful, healthy yard by working with the environment, not against it! This free event will feature hands-on demonstrations by master gardeners, a lawn mower exchange, and more!

Sponsored by: Clemson Extension Tri-County Master Gardeners, Clemson's Carolina Clear Program, Ashley Cooper Stormwater Education Consortium, Charleston, Berkeley & Dorchester County Recycling, DHEC and the Charleston Exchange Park.

Charleston Water's commitment to protecting & improving our environment

For more than ten years, Charleston Water System has had a formal, internationally recognized environmental program in place that:

- Protects the environment – the nature of our business
- Prevents pollution – by reducing environmental impacts (carbon footprint) of our operations
- Strives for innovation – accomplished through 100s of successful environmental improvement programs



Our Mission is to protect public health and enhance the environment of our service community by providing clean water services of exceptional quality and value.

Our Vision is to become, by 2012, an organization worthy of a SC Governor's Quality Award through teamwork, customer focus, and performance excellence.



*Water Wisely!
Plant native
species, use drip
irrigation, and
don't overwater!*

Water Trivia!

Test your water knowledge!
Send us the correct answer to the question below by April 19, 2010 to be entered in a prize drawing!*

What year was the original Hanahan Steam Pumping Station, now the site of Charleston Water's Hanahan Water Treatment Plant, built?

Send your answer via e-mail or mail:
info@charlestoncpw.com
Charleston Water System
Attn: Water Wise Trivia Contest
PO Box B
Charleston, SC 29402

*Charleston Water System employees and their family members not eligible to enter.