



Water Wise

The Quarterly Newsletter of Charleston Water System

Volume 10, Issue 1

March 2015

What's That Smell?

Spring weather brings harmless change in water taste and smell

Each Spring, our tap water develops what's most often described as an "earthy" taste and smell.

It's caused by warm temperatures and increased sunlight, which promote algae growth and water turnover in our primary water supply, the Bushy Park Reservoir.

This natural process produces a harmless, but sometimes unpleasant, taste and

Did you know...?

Environmental variables such as mineral content, organic compounds, and temperature affect the taste of tap water. For best tasting water, chill it or add ice.

odor that can be detected by the human nose at very small levels. We've made process improvements at our treatment plant to quickly detect and remove

the bothersome compounds, but people with a sensitive sense of smell may still detect it.



The human nose is one of the most effective instruments for measuring the level of harmless "earthy" compounds in water.

Our lab's sniff tests provide real-time data to help the plant adjust the treatment process to minimize the earthy taste and smell.

Watch the Water Treatment Process



If you're curious about where your water comes from, how it's treated, and how it gets to your tap, check out this video on our web site. Scan the QR code with your smart phone or visit www.charlestonwater.com.



Need a Speaker?

Schedule a speaker for your school or group

Do you know where your water comes from, how it's treated, and how it gets to your home?

If your group is interested in learning more about water, contact us to schedule a speaker.

We can customize a presentation to suit your group's needs with topics ranging from infrastructure to water history. You may be surprised at how interesting water can be!

To schedule a speaker, visit www.charlestonwater.com/speaker or call (843) 727-6856.

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



Five Ways to Prevent Water Waste

Want to be more water efficient—and reduce your water bill? Follow these five tips:

1. Check for leaks. If you find any, fix them. Don't forget to check toilets and outdoor spigots.
2. Replace old toilets, faucets, shower heads and other fixtures with a new, WaterSense labeled fixture.
3. Don't over-water your lawn. Irrigate in the morning to minimize water lost to evaporation.
4. Only run the dishwasher or washing machine with a full load.
5. Turn off the water when you brush your teeth.



WaterSense labeled products use 20 percent less water and perform as well or better than their less efficient counterparts. www.epa.gov/watersense

Support Operation Round-Up!

Give the gift of clean water for less than a dollar a month

Help fight the world water crisis or provide water for a local family in need by signing up for our Operation Round-Up program.

When you sign up, we'll round up your water bill to the nearest dollar each month and donate the amount to our Good Neighbor Program or to Water Missions International, you choose which one.

Thanks to your generosity, in 2014 we raised **\$27,000** for the Good Neighbor Program (which helped **259 people**) and **\$11,700** for Water Missions International.

To sign up, fill out the form on the back of your bill stub or call us at (843) 727-6800.

The Good Neighbor Program helps local families in need pay their water bill. The program is administered by the Charleston County Human Services Commission. www.chscom.com

Water Missions International is a nonprofit that provides sustainable safe water and sanitation solutions for people in developing countries and disaster areas. www.watermissions.org

Sign up for e-Bill!

Visit www.charlestonwater.com, log in to your account, and select **Billing Options**. You'll receive an email each month when your bill is ready. You can switch back to paper billing at any time.

From the Archives...



The Edisto River is one of Charleston Water's two sources of drinking water. This intake structure, built in 1928, diverts river water into a 23-mile tunnel that conveys the water to our Hanahan Water Treatment Plant.

The intake is scheduled to be updated with new gates and screens, a \$2.15 million project that's part of our Capital Improvements Program. To learn more about our water and sewer infrastructure projects, visit www.charlestonwater.com/infrastructure.