

Pinery Pipeline

July/August 2009

Pinery Water & Wastewater District – 303.841.2797

www.pinerywater.com

2009 Water Quality Report

The District's 2009 Annual Water Quality report was mailed to all District customers prior to July 1, 2009 as required by the State.

The report is also available at:
www.pinerywater.com/newsletters
for your convenience.

Please call the District office at 303-841-2797
if you have any questions.

Thinking about
Digging?
Don't assume
you know
what's below.

Call 811 or
800-922-1987

BEFORE
you dig!



Summertime... It's the Perfect Time to Flush Your Water Heater!

Mineral sediment or "scale" can build up in the tank of your water reducing its energy efficiency and capacity. If you take some simple steps to flush out the tank every six months, it will keep your water heater operating safely and efficiently for years:

1. Turn off the water heater.
2. Turn off the cold water supply that feeds into the top of the tank.
3. Connect a garden hose to the drain valve at the bottom of the tank. Direct the other end of the hose into a bucket, floor drain or outside. **BEWARE** – when drained, the water will be extremely hot!
4. Carefully open the temperature/pressure relief valve at the top of the tank by lifting the lever.
5. Open the drain valve at the bottom of the heater allowing the water to flow out through the garden hose. Allow the tank to drain until the hose runs clear. (Note: Some tanks can be damaged if drained completely; check the tank warning labels and/or owner's manual.)
6. If sediment is clogging the drain valve, try closing the pressure relief valve and turn the cold inlet valve back on to "power flush" the sediment out.
7. Close the tank drain valve at the bottom of the tank and disconnect the hose.
8. Close the pressure relief valve at the top of the tank and turn the cold inlet valve back on.
9. Open a hot faucet in your house and let it run until no air comes out.
10. Once the tank is full and you can no longer hear water running into it, turn on the power by either restoring electric power or opening the gas line and reigniting the pilot light.

● **Did you know....** A continuous water leak from a ¼" hole in your irrigation or service line, in a period of about a month, equals nearly 400,000 gallons at a cost of over \$3600!

Foggy Glass Coming out of your Dishwasher?



If your dishes are coming out of the dishwasher covered by a *removable* dirty film, try this:

To remove this type of film from dirty dishes, set a bowl filled with a cup or two of white vinegar on the lowest rack (or bottom) of the dishwasher. Remove any metal pans or utensils. With the vinegar on the bottom rack, wash the dishes as usual. Dirty dishes that were once covered in film come out squeaky clean. If this process doesn't work, you more than likely have permanent etching on the glass.

Quick Conservation Tips:

- Lawns only need to be watered two days a week - you pick the days! Consider adding one extra day in extreme heat.
- Spread a layer of mulch around your plants and trees to help retain moisture in your soil. Works great in gardens too!

Proper Disposal of Prescription & OTC Drugs Can Help Protect our Water Supply



Household medications include over-the-counter drugs and prescription medicines. These are often discarded because they are out of date or otherwise unusable or unwanted. Never give your unused prescription medicines to someone else as they may be harmful to the other person. You could also be charged with dispensing medicine without a license.

Most medications can be disposed of without presenting a substantial threat to the environment, with the exception of cancer treating drugs. Cancer treating drugs should be brought to a hospital for proper disposal because of their toxicity.

Procedures for stabilizing non-cancer treating medications include:

1. Try to make unusable or unwanted household medications as unappealing as possible by crushing tablets and/or mixing the medication with undesirable things such as old coffee grounds or kitty litter.
2. Securely wrap the medicine mixture in a zip-top plastic bag, then in several layers of newspaper. Seal this bundle in a trash bag and put it in with your regular trash.
3. Store trash containing disposed medicines out of the reach of children and pets until it can be picked up by your trash disposal service or taken to a landfill.

It is no longer recommended that households flush even small quantities of household medicines down the drain. Some medicines can disrupt or destroy the useful micro-organisms in the sewage treatment system and/or may pass through the system intact and potentially contaminate downstream water resources.

These procedures are intended for small quantities of medications from a household only.

For additional information, please see <http://www.cdph.state.co.us/HM/hhw/howto/medications.htm>.

