



# WHAT'S ON TAP?

NEWS FOR OUR CUSTOMERS

## MANAGE STORMWATER THIS SPRING



**A**pril showers bring May flowers, the saying goes, but stormwater also can pollute the environment, cause property damage and even threaten human health. Stormwater, created by rainfall or melting snow, is a very necessary and important resource, but it can also cause water quality and water quantity issues.

Quality is threatened as stormwater collects and carries pollutants to streams and rivers, potentially harming human and animal health. Quantity – too much stormwater – can damage property, severely erode stream banks, harm wildlife habitats, and fill streams with sediment.

Storm drains – the gutter lining City streets that lead to drains, typically at the corner – are not depositories for grass clippings, leaves, or pet waste. Keep storm drains clear. Minimize lawn chemicals. Recycle used motor oil (see where in a separate article in this newsletter).

Make sure your yard absorbs rain by minimizing runoff to the street or neighboring property. Make sure downspouts are not connected to the City's sanitary sewer system. Install a rain barrel, use collected rainwater for gardens, and save on your water bill.

Speaking of gardens, use native plants with deep roots to drink the water that falls on your

property. Consider adding a rain garden – a bowl-shaped area planted with grasses and native vegetation. Rain gardens not only help improve water quality, but also they beautify yards and neighborhoods.

Everybody can help prevent pollution. Many more tips about these tactics – including information about vehicle washing, tree planting, permeable pavers and more – are available free in a comprehensive Stormwater Management brochure on the link below.

### MORE INFO

[www.kcwater.us/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/KCMO-Resident-Stormwater-Booklet.pdf](http://www.kcwater.us/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/KCMO-Resident-Stormwater-Booklet.pdf)

# STOP LEAKS TO AVOID A COSTLY SURPRISE

One of the most common reasons water bills may be higher than expected is a leak inside a home's plumbing system.

Customers are responsible for pipes and fixtures starting at the valve near the KC Water water main that runs through neighborhoods. Any leak past that point not only can be costly, but also it can cause costly property damage.

A leak can be easy to see. If there's drip from a pipe or a faucet, get it fixed as soon as possible before it runs up your water bill.

Others can be difficult to detect. A good example is a hidden leak in a lawn irrigation system buried in a yard. Be sure to have this common leak source checked when turning on lawn

sprinkler systems this spring.

Perhaps the most common indoor leak is the toilet tank. A slow, silent leak through a worn flapper valve inside the tank can quickly become a hole in your family budget. To find a toilet leak, place a dye tablet or food dye in the tank. If color appears in the bowl after 10-15 minutes, you have a leak. (Flush immediately to avoid staining the toilet.)

Request free dye tablets by calling KC Water at 816-513-1313 (Option 1).

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has more leak information online. Find links and get more tips about leak detection at the below web page.

#### MORE INFO

[www.kcwater.us/customer-support/leak-detection](http://www.kcwater.us/customer-support/leak-detection)

## EDUCATION STATION



Protect water quality through easy everyday actions. Two ideas: 1. Choose reusable paper or cloth shopping bags instead of plastic. 2. Compost food scraps, food soiled paper, and plants and flowers at free kitchen scrap drop-off locations.

#### MORE INFO

[www.kcmo.gov/city-hall/trash-and-recycling/compost](http://www.kcmo.gov/city-hall/trash-and-recycling/compost)

# HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION AVAILABLE

Pesticides, cleaners, oxidizers and other household materials are accepted at the KC Water Household Hazardous Waste Facility.

Professionals at this facility, located at 4707 Deramus Ave., safely manage, recycle, and properly discard dangerous

household products. The facility provides a safe way to keep items such as paint, cleaners, oxidizers, batteries, lawn chemicals, motor oil and other automotive fluids, and many other hazardous household products out of landfills and waterways.

The facility's procedures, hours,

accepted and not-accepted items, participating communities, remote event schedule, and other information is available at the below web page, or call 816-513-8400.

#### MORE INFO

[www.kcwater.us/programs/hhw](http://www.kcwater.us/programs/hhw)



4800 E. 63rd St. • Kansas City, MO 64130

**CUSTOMER SUPPORT:** (816) 513-1313 (Option 1) or 311 • [www.kcwater.us](http://www.kcwater.us)

**NEWSLETTER COMMENTS:** [water.communications@kcmo.org](mailto:water.communications@kcmo.org)



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