

BEDMINSTER MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

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Spring/Summer 2011



Bedminster Municipal Authority is happy to announce that there will be no rate increase in 2011 for any of the Authority's 1008 customers. Our customers will continue to pay the rates established in 2007. The Authority determines rates by hiring an independent company to do a rate study. This company reviews operating costs, capital improvements and depreciation to determine rates for a maximum of a five year period. The Authority is currently involved in a rate study for the upcoming year. Since opening in 1987 the Authority has only increased its rates five times in 24 years. Our average customer uses approximately 16,000 gallons of water and pays \$277.98 per quarter for water and sewer. The Authority utilizes four groundwater wells. The regions "hard" groundwater can cause discoloration of water, a yearly system wide flushing occurs to minimize "brown" water complaints. In 2010, a daily average of 147,636 gallons of water was pumped through our water booster station and a daily average of 172,603 gallons of sewage is processed at our sewage plant located on Elephant Road.

Please keep the Authority up to date on your current phone numbers.



Our phone messaging system cannot contact our customers in the event of a water or sewer emergency or for important information if your contact number is inaccurate.

Please remember to clear hydrants near your home of



snow. Emergency personnel cannot locate them if they are buried in snow. Precious minutes may be lost trying to locate them.

Water lines and meters in basements and outdoor closets should be insulated to avoid damage from cold



weather. The possibility of bursting pipes could result in water damage to your home and the interruption of water service.

Please remember to maintain your hot water heaters and water softeners as suggested in your owner's manual. The regions hard water can affect the condition of your appliances and the quality of your water if not serviced regularly.

Go ahead, call me cheap.



- At a fraction of a penny per gallon, tap water provides safety, convenience, and freedom.
- Less than 1% of the average person's income is spent on water and wastewater services.
- An 8 oz. glass of water can be refilled approximately 15,000 times for the same price as a six-pack of soda.
- Your water bill pays for a lot more than simply water. You get water treatment, frequent testing and monitoring, and a vast underground infrastructure that delivers safe, plentiful water right to your tap.
- Studies show that bottled water is no purer than tap water, yet bottled water costs about 1,900% more.



A little comparative shopping...

One gallon of tap water=less than 1/10th of 1 cent.

One gallon of bottled water=
\$1.43-\$8.00

One gallon of soda= \$2.80-\$4.60

One gallon of milk= \$3.79-\$4.24

One gallon of gasoline= \$3.70-\$4.00

One gallon of table wine= \$18.50-\$37.95

One gallon of cafe-lattes=\$35-\$52

One gallon of imported olive oil=
\$135-\$525



Water Conservation in Your Lawn and Garden

At least 30% of water used annually by a single-family suburban home is for outdoor irrigation. A large portion of that goes to waste through evaporation or runoff caused by over-watering. The landscaping tips in this article will help you conserve water and save money.

- Promote deep root growth with proper watering, aerating, fertilization, grass-clipping control, and attention to lawn height. A lawn with deep roots requires less water and is more resistant to drought and disease.
- Avoid planting turf in areas that are difficult to irrigate, such as steep inclines and isolated strips along sidewalks and driveways.
- Add 2 to 3 inches of mulch around flowers, shrubs and trees to help retain moisture, discourage the growth of weeds, and provide essential nutrients.
- When choosing plants, keep in mind that younger, smaller ones require less water to become established.
- Install drip-irrigation or soaker hoses for more efficient watering in garden beds and beneath shrubs and trees.

- Consider installing a rainfall or soil moisture sensor for your automatic sprinkler system. Moisture sensors monitor the soil to determine when and how much water is needed.
- Use a broom or rake (not the hose) to clean driveways and walkways. It saves water and is good exercise.



- Use a bucket of soapy water and a hose with a shutoff nozzle to wash your car. Better yet, wash your car at a commercial car wash that recycles water.
- Select plants that are native to your region and can thrive with little watering. Ask a nursery about drought-tolerant plants.
- Water your lawn and landscape plants early in the morning when the sun isn't working to evaporate your water.
- If you have a pool, keep the water level low to minimize loss from splashing. Use a cover to slow evaporation. An average-sized pool loses about 1,000 gallons of water per month if left uncovered.
- Using less water means less energy is used to treat it, pump it, and distribute it. By conserving water, you are helping maintain our natural resources.