



## Focus on Emergency Preparedness

You can't go a single day without access to clean water. If drinking water or sewer systems aren't working during a natural disaster, disease can quickly spread. Plan ahead, so you will have the clean water you need and can safely manage human waste.

### Water

Store an emergency water supply. It is recommended to have at least 1 gallon of water per person per day. Store a 2-week supply of water if possible. In addition to water, store unscented chlorine bleach to sanitize more water if necessary.

### Emergency kit

After a natural disaster, you may need to survive on your own for several days. An emergency kit is a collection of basic items your household may need. You should have an emergency kit at home, at your workplace and in your car. Make sure to consider your unique needs, such as medications, glasses and pets. Mark your calendar to check your emergency kits annually.

### Important things to know:

- Store waste from temporary toilets away from food, streams or other water bodies. Keep kids and pets away from toilet and waste area.

- After each use, throw dirt, ash, bark chips or other dry material in the temporary toilet to reduce smell and keep pests away.

- Keep soap and water or hand sanitizer nearby.



### Emergency toilets: Twin buckets

Temporary toilets may be needed in an emergency. Use two 5-gallon buckets to capture and separate liquids and solids. Materials needed: shovel, soap/hand sanitizer, toilet paper, bucket and plastic garbage bags to capture and dispose of waste. Toilet seats designed for buckets can provide more comfort.

CLIP AND SAVE



## Federal Lead and Copper Rule

In an effort to significantly lower the risk of exposure to lead and copper in our nation's drinking water, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is requiring all Group A Water Utilities to perform a Lead Service Line Inventory and submit the results to the State Department of Health (DOH) by October 2024.

This requires water utilities to dedicate efforts to review their historic records and determine appropriate identification methods to obtain both private and utility-owned service line information. Soos Creek Water & Sewer District is on track for completing our Inventory by October 2024.

Soos Creek has over 19,000 water service lines. The majority of these were installed after lead service lines were banned by King County in the late 1960s. Therefore service lines installed in 1968 or later are determined to be non-lead, based on building permit date.



- This resulted in 4,572 service lines with "Lead Status Unknown."
- For the unknown service lines remaining, a statistical method was used to determine the service line material. The remaining unknown service lines were randomly selected for physical inspection using the method described in Appendix A of the Statistical Guidance for Group A PWS Evaluation of Unknown Service lines 331-723; [doh.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2023-05/331-723.pdf](https://doh.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2023-05/331-723.pdf). Based on the number of unknowns, 357 service lines required physical inspection.

The 357 service lines were verified by on-site visual inspection at the water meter pit. No lead pipe was found during these inspections.

We are currently upgrading the Soos Creek Website so that customers can use a Geographic Information System (GIS) map to look up their service line material when the inventory is submitted and approved by Washington State DOH.



## Assistance with your utility bill

If you need help paying your water or sewer bill, please call the District. Our customer service representatives are available to assist you and can connect you to programs at the District and elsewhere.

**Utility Rate Reduction Program:** In 2023 65 low-income permanently disabled, and 331 low-income senior citizens took advantage of the 30% discount offered on our water and sewer base rates through this program. The total annual cost of the program was \$40,033.70. Based on equivalent residential units, this translates into an annual cost of 60 cents for all water customers and 63 cents for all sewer customers. The discount does not apply to the King County Sewer Treatment charges. For an application/additional information, visit: [www.sooscreek.com/uploads/pdf/2024/2024program.9.2024.pdf](http://www.sooscreek.com/uploads/pdf/2024/2024program.9.2024.pdf), or call 253-630-9900.

# AVOIDING COMMON SUMMER BACKFLOW INCIDENTS

## 01

### FILLING YOUR POOL

WHEN FILLING YOUR POOL, SPA OR POND, BE SURE TO KEEP THE END OF YOUR HOSE ELEVATED & OUT OF THE WATER. SUBMERGED HOSES CREATE A PATH FOR CHEMICAL & BACTERIA TO ENTER YOUR HOME.



## 02

### FERTILIZING YOUR GARDEN

LIQUID FERTILIZER & INSECTICIDES THAT CONNECT TO YOUR HOSE NEED TO BE DISCONNECTED AND THE HOSE LINE FLUSHED TO PREVENT CHEMICALS FROM ENTERING YOUR HOUSE WATER.



## 03

### IRRIGATING YOUR LAWN

SPRINKLER HEADS CAN FILL WITH DIRT, BACTERIA & EVEN FECES THAT CAN BE DRAWN INTO YOUR HOUSE WATER. PERMANENT IRRIGATION SYSTEMS REQUIRE A CERTIFIED BACKFLOW ASSEMBLY BE INSTALLED BEHIND THE METER.



## 04

### WASHING YOUR CAR

LEAVING A HOSE IN A SOAPY BUCKET OF WATER MAY CAUSE THE SOAP AND DIRT TO FLOW BACK INTO YOUR HOUSE WATER. AVOIDING GARDEN HOSE SUBMERSION WILL PROTECT YOU FROM BACKFLOW.



## Keep drinking water Safe

Backflow is a plumbing term that refers to an unwanted flow of water back into the watermain. It can be a serious health risk if it contaminates drinking water supplies with dirty water. Keep drinking water safe by avoiding these common backflow incidents.

*The mission of Soos Creek, a public agency, is to provide reliable, high quality water and sewer services in an efficient, cost effective manner.*

## Update Your Contact Information

Please help us contact you quickly in the event of a water or sewer emergency. You can update your contact information by contacting Customer Service at: 253-630-9900 or e-mail us at: [customer\\_service@sooscreek.com](mailto:customer_service@sooscreek.com).

## SOOS CREEK WATER & SEWER DISTRICT

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### Commissioners

Gary Cline  
Alice Marshall  
Darold Stroud  
Alan Eades  
Logan Wallace

### General Manager

Jane Vandenberg, PE  
Board of Commissioners Meetings are held the first, third and fourth Wednesdays of the month at 4:30 p.m. and are open to the public.

