



LIQUID

E-NEWSLETTER

**Save Money in the New Year:
Take the "I'm for Water" Pledge!**



Still looking for that perfect New Year's resolution? Or just searching for ways to save money in 2020?

Take the ["I'm for Water" pledge today](#) — and resolve to save water *and* money this year!

Saving water doesn't have to be hard. When you take the pledge, you can opt in to receive the WaterSense Current: A quarterly email full of water-saving news and tips. Plus, you can download the free WaterSense monthly resolutions checklist to help you use less water (and spend less on your utility bills!) all year long.

And with Hilton Head PSD's water usage portal, you can easily track your household's water use to make sure you stay on track with your water-saving goals!

So what are you waiting for? Click the button below to download the free WaterSense monthly resolutions checklist.

[Free WaterSense Monthly Checklist](#)

Stick to the pledge!

3 Quick Tips for Saving Water in 2020

- Turn off the tap while brushing your teeth or washing dishes.
- Take shorter showers: Aim for 5 minutes!
- Wait until you have a full load to run the dishwasher or washing machine.



Free Heirs' Property Seminar



The Center for Heirs' Property Preservation presents a free seminar, "Understanding Your Finances," from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Jan. 25 at the Hilton Head Island Community Church, located at 860 William Hilton Parkway.

Delois Johnson from Low-country Tax Service will be the featured guest speaker. The event is sponsored by The Links Inc.

[Learn More Here](#)

Black Slime mold or fungus in your bathroom or kitchen?



You may have noticed “black slime” growing around areas of your home that are often exposed to water, such as the faucet, sink, shower, or toilet. These microbes are airborne mold and/or fungal spores that are nearly ubiquitous in the very moist, subtropical Lowcountry climate.

They grow in areas where they are frequently exposed to moisture – such as sinks and toilets and faucets!

These microbes are NOT contained in the drinking water, but when they land in a place that is exposed to water they can grow quickly.

There are many different strategies for eliminating this “slime”, including:

- Clean affected areas with a bleach solution. Be careful not to scratch any smooth surfaces as this makes it easier for microbes to attach.
- Eliminate leaks that provide a constant source of water.
- Make sure that susceptible areas are dry after use.
- Maintain good ventilation.
- Clean away any lime scale on vulnerable surfaces.
- Thoroughly clean aerators and replace ones that are old or rusty.
- Spray areas with white vinegar and let soak before rinsing.
- Look into purchasing antimicrobial sink fixtures.
- Microbial growth in your household fixtures is a common issue, but can be solved with a little elbow grease!

Key Points:

- Your tap water is safe to drink.
- PSD tap water annually passes thousands of tests by both our own award-winning Water Quality Laboratory and independent laboratories, which are confirmed by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC). The PSD’s water quality consistently meets or exceeds all state and federal water quality standards. The PSD’s Water Quality Laboratory consistently meets and exceeds all certification requirements and has been named a “Laboratory of Excellence” by the independent agency that monitors laboratory compliance under S.C. DHEC.
- The black molds or fungi on your fixtures and/or in your bathroom/kitchen are not found in the drinking water – they are caused by airborne spores that are naturally occurring in our very moist, subtropical climate. If you moved to the Lowcountry from a different climate, you might not have experienced these airborne spores before.
- Airborne spores can attach to clothing, shoes, bags, and pets, and be carried indoors.
- Airborne spores enter your home via vents, heating and air-conditioning systems, doorways and windows.
- More than 1,000 different types of airborne spores have been identified in the U.S.
- Examples of airborne molds that have been found in the Lowcountry climate

are: Cladosporium, Paecilomyces, Phialophora, and Aspergillus.

Remember, molds are living organisms. Just as all living things need water, so does mold. Mold can grow on almost any surface and only requires dampness and a food source.

Black molds, like other molds, will grow in places where there is moisture, such as around water leaks, windows, drain pipes, or where there has been flooding. Black mold grows well on paper products, cardboard, ceiling tiles, and wood products. They can also grow in dust, paints, wallpaper, insulation, drywall, carpet, fabric, and upholstery.

It has been observed that black mold on faucets may be growing in the aerator that is attached to the end of the faucet. Regular cleaning, by unscrewing the aerator from the faucet and cleaning with a mild bleach solution, is recommended.

It is impractical to attempt to eliminate all indoor molds, but you can keep mold growth in check by:

- Keeping humidity levels between 40% and 60%. If you are experiencing frequent problems with mold formation in your home, it may be a great idea to start using a dehumidifier in your home.
- Promptly fixing leaky roofs, windows, and pipes;
- Thoroughly cleaning and drying after flooding;
- Ventilating shower, laundry, and cooking areas;
- Using a non-abrasive cleaning solution with bleach, such as Soft Scrub, to clean the areas where mold is growing.

Do you know how to shut off water to your home?



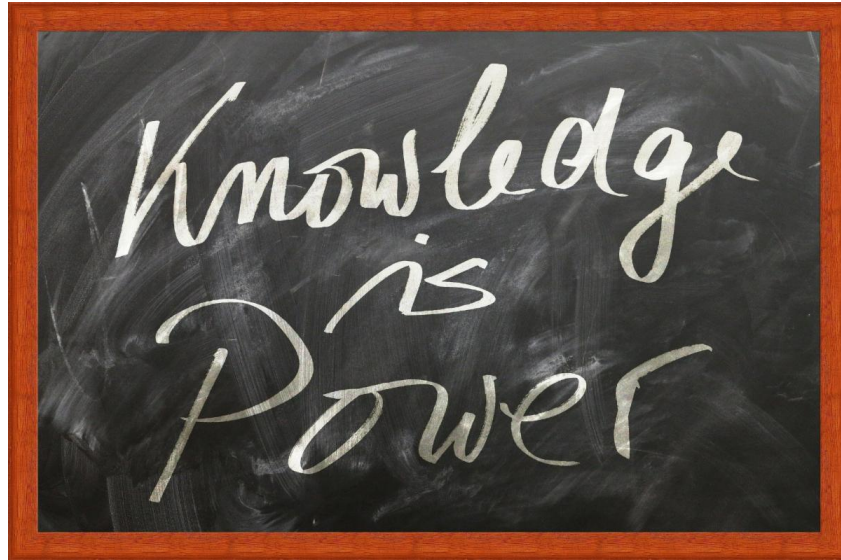
Your water can be shut off at the main valve.

Everyone in your home should know where this is located in case of an emergency. So how do you find your home's main valve?

Typically, a home's main valve is located either on the customer side of the meter box or just outside of the point where the service line penetrates the foundation of the house.

The main valve — which normally has a wheel-type handle — will be in line with your water meter, which is usually located near the edge of your property line near the street. But some home may also have a water shut-off valve located in the garage.

Bear in mind that closing such a valve will turn off water to the interior of the home, but *not* to the exterior.

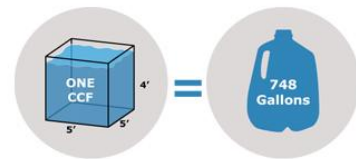


Understanding your Water Bill

Learn how you use water in your home and where to start saving this year by understanding your water bill.

Here are some of the basics:

- A CCF, also called an HCF (hundred cubic feet), represents one hundred cubic feet of water. 1 CCF = 748 gallons.
- The average American uses 88 gallons per day. That means a family of four would use 10,500 gallons in a month on average.
- You can use Hilton Head PSD's water usage portal to see a detailed breakdown of your family's water use — and help you better understand those numbers on your water bill.



[Learn More Here](#)

Water Quality Lab recognized as "Laboratory of Excellence"



Hilton Head Public Service District's (PSD) water quality laboratory has once again been recognized as a Laboratory of Excellence as part of its annual certification by the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC).

The independent agency that conducts DHEC's certification recognized the PSD lab "achieving 100% acceptable data" in a group of nearly 650 participating labs, according to a statement from the independent agency.

"This achievement is a demonstration of the superior quality of the laboratory," according to the statement.

The PSD water quality lab conducts thousands of tests annually on the quality of our tap water and treated recycled wastewater. The lab is led by PSD water quality chemists Scott Moffatt and Lee Barnard.

FURTHER READING

Online Billing

- Pay your bill or check your account online! Here's how it works:
- To login and view your account or to pay your bill, you will need to use your PayID or account number and address number. Your PayID and account number can be found on your water bill.
- Your default password is the first word or number in your mailing address number, which you can change once you register.
- If you want, set up recurring bill pay so you never miss a payment!

[Read More](#)

Sign Up for the Water Usage Portal

Hilton Head PSD's Water Usage Portal can tell you exactly how many gallons of water flow through your pipes every day. This is an optional service, and you do not need to sign up for the Water Usage

Portal to pay your bill.

□ The Water Usage Portal is especially useful for landlords or second home owners, allowing you to keep an eye on your property here in Hilton Head while you are away. Set up text or phone alerts to signal you if your water usage exceeds a level you determine.



Water Usage Portal

Hilton Head PSD Affiliations

We are proud to partner with the following organizations.



MORE INFORMATION

