Spokane County Water District #3 wants you to know that they are committed to you and your family’s health by delivering safe clean drinking water everyday. SCWD#3 strives to be a good steward of the aquifer and your water system. Year round water quality monitoring, replacing aging or leaking pipes and pumps, and planning for growth are just some of the responsibilities of the District. SCWD#3 also works to make sure we are using water efficiently. We set water use efficiency goals for our system in 2008, updated them in 2015, and report our progress annually.

SYSTEM LEAKAGE BELOW 10% BY 2020
The District did not meet the goal in 2017, however great progress has been made. Through aggressive leak detection, the District reduced its system leakage from 16.4% to 11.6%, a savings of nearly 2.5 million gallons! SCWD#3 will continue its aggressive approach to meet 10% system leakage. Production meters are read weekly and consumption meters are read 8 months per year. The information is used not only for billing, but reviewed for system loss and demands which helps the District make informed decisions.

CONSERVATION ORIENTED RATE STRUCTURE
SCWD#3 adjusted the second tier of the “inclining” rate structure in 2008 to provide an incentive for customers to reduce their water usage.

Remember, the best way to help with this goal is reducing your irrigation usage. Saving water not only helps the aquifer and river, it saves energy needed to pump the water and it saves you money on your bills! Here are some easy tips to get you started:

1) Only use sprinklers in the cool hours of the morning and evening.
2) Install moisture sensors to make sure you are only watering when the plants need it.
3) Plant Native Plants and Drought Tolerant Species that need less water.

In order to ensure that your water is clean and safe, we test for contaminants all year long. We are proud to report that your water meets or exceeds all state and federal regulations. While some contaminants were found in the water, the Environmental Protection Agency has determined that your water is safe at these levels for you and your family. Keep in mind that the presence of contaminants doesn’t mean the water is unsafe. MCLs are set at very stringent levels. A person would have a 1 in 20 million chance of having the described health effect. Health related standards are set by the Washington State Department of Health.
Special Notice

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer, undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Contaminants in Drinking Water

All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Department of Health and EPA prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Washington Department of Agriculture regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

In Washington State, lead in drinking water comes primarily from materials and components used in household plumbing. The more time water has been sitting in pipes, the more dissolved metals, such as lead, it may contain. Elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially in pregnant women and young children. To help reduce potential exposure to lead: for any drinking water tap that has not been used for 6 hours or more, flush water through the tap until the water is noticeably colder before using for drinking or cooking. You can use the flushed water for watering plants, washing dishes, or general cleaning. Only use water from the cold-water tap for drinking, cooking, and especially for making baby formula. Hot water is likely to contain higher levels of lead. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water is available from EPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or online at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

You Can Help Keep the Water Clean

Buy the least toxic material available for your project and take any household hazardous waste to the Waste to Energy Transfer Stations. For more tips on going Toxic Free visit http://www.ecy.wa.gov/toxicfreetips/

Dispose of all chemicals properly. Take household hazardous waste to transfer stations. For help or information call: Spokane County Solid Waste Management (509) 625-6800.

Don’t pour anything on the ground that you wouldn’t want to drink.

Follow the directions on the label for proper use of pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers.

Safely store all unused chemicals.

Keep lawn chemicals off of streets, driveways and sidewalks so they don’t get washed into storm drains or streams.

Set lawn mowers to leave grass 2”-3” tall. This will keep the roots shaded so your grass needs less water.

Fix auto fluid leaks right away

To reduce herbicides, use mulch or fabric covers to prevent weeds.

Do not use chemicals near open water such as streams or rivers.

RADON

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that is common in the Spokane area. Exposure to excessive amounts of radon may increase cancer risk. Your drinking water, in most cases is a very small source of radon in indoor air. For local assistance concerning radon in your home, contact the Spokane County Health District at (509) 324-1560 ext. 5.