

From the Tap...



Frederick P. Griffith, Jr., Water Treatment Plant in Service

At 8:54 a.m. on Thursday, May 4, 2006, a new state-of-the-art drinking water treatment plant was placed in service by Fairfax Water. By day's end, the plant, which can produce up to 120 million gallons of water a day, was serving high-quality drinking water to the southern portion of Fairfax County.

The plant features advanced drinking water treatment, with ozone and granular activated carbon filters. Ozone is a powerful disinfectant and oxidant that enhances the already high quality of treatment by



The architectural design of the plant preserves the historical context of the site.

further reducing the production of disinfection by-products (regulated substances by the Environmental Protection Agency). Six-foot-deep carbon filters provide additional removal of natural organic substances that sometimes cause taste and odors in drinking water. The final result is a very high-quality

drinking water being served to our 1.3 million customers in Northern Virginia. Fairfax Water's other drinking water treatment facility, the Corbalis Water Treatment Plant located in the northern end of Fairfax County, was the first drinking water utility in Virginia to use ozone treatment in 2001.

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Cross Connection and Backflow Control

Have you ever wondered why your faucets sit high above the sink? The reason is to provide an air gap to prevent a cross connection and avoid backflow.

Cross connection is a term that describes the physical connection between a drinking water system and a system that may be unclean, like water trapped in a dirty sink. Backflow is what can happen when a cross

connection exists. Backflow can occur when there is a change in pressure between the interconnected sources. A good example of this is a garden hose left submerged in water, such as a pond, pool or bucket of water. A sudden drop in pressure in the garden hose can siphon the water back through the hose and into the household plumbing system. Hose-end sprayers actu-

ally use backflow to mix and distribute the chemical used, such as fertilizers or cleansing agents. Without backflow protection at the source, these chemicals may be siphoned back into your household plumbing.

Building code requires backflow prevention devices be installed on all outside faucets and indoor faucets with



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Cross Connections

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threaded connections. Make sure you have back-flow prevention devices installed and that they work properly.

Toilet valves must also be cross connection compliant.

Consult local building codes before doing any plumbing work to ensure compliance with cross connection prevention.

Cross connection control is important to ensure safe drinking water for you and your family's health and safety.



Water-Saving Tip #17: Collect the water you use for rinsing produce and reuse it to water houseplants.

Capturing rinse water is a good way to use every drop. Also, it is a good idea to capture water which would otherwise be wasted, such as cold water run while waiting for warm. You could also wash your car in the grass to water the lawn with the car's rinse water.

For more information and other water saving tips, visit <http://www.wateruseitwisely.com/>.

Lawn Watering

Most experts recommend one inch of water per week for a healthy lawn. The one inch includes rainfall, so if you water your lawn, make sure to include rainfall in your watering plan.

A rain gauge will be helpful in ensuring that your lawn gets enough water.

If you start watering early in the season, it is generally better to keep watering because the root system has adapted to using water close to the surface and may suffer if the watering stops suddenly. If you decide to not water, the roots will grow deeper to access water and the grass will be more resistant to dry spells.

Make sure not to over water, as this will waste water and may damage your lawn and wash fertilizers into neighboring streams.



Editor's Note

If you have comments or suggestions about this publication, let us hear from you.

E-mail us at jbailey@fairfaxwater.org or write us at the address below. If you have questions regarding water service, please call Customer Service at (703) 698-5800.

For all other departments, call (703) 698-5600; After-hours emergency, call (703) 698-5613, TTY (703) 698-7025.

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