



Water *lines*

BIRCH BAY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT
SERVING THE GREATER BIRCH BAY AREA SINCE 1968

District Amending Shut Off Policy

Current District policy does not shut off service to customers until they are delinquent on two utility bills. Since the District only bills every two months, this results in over four months of service prior to shut off. The current procedure can create large utility bills that are difficult to pay for some of our customers.

In April, the District Board of Commissioners approved changes to the Utility Shut Off Policy to address this problem. The biggest change is shutting off water after one delinquent billing instead of two. The changes are an effort to make it easier for customers to stay current on their bills and lessen impacts on rental properties. The District is also changing the late charge procedure. As of now, the District adds 2% to the total charges, which compounds the longer the bill is delinquent. With the amended policy, a late charge will only be applied to the current charges on the bill and not the total charges owed. The District expects to implement the new policy by September 2013.

THE NEW UTILITY SHUT OFF POLICY:

- Utility bills are considered past due or delinquent for the current billing cycle on the day following the due date.
- A late charge of 6% will be applied to the current charges - not total charges.
- A notice will be mailed to customers at least one week prior to the scheduled shut-off date.
- Shut off of water service will occur if full payment is not received in the district office during normal business hours (8am—4:30pm) by the utility shut off date.
- Scheduled utility shut-offs will begin the morning after the shut off date



Importance of Utility Easement Maintenance

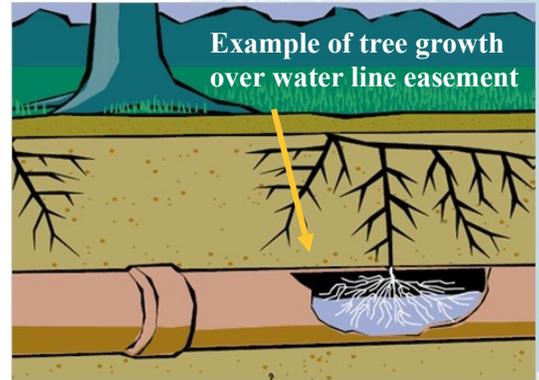
The District has embarked on an easement maintenance program in an effort to protect and maintain water distribution and sewer collection systems. Over the past three years, the District has cleared utility easements that had 30 plus years of vegetation growth over the top of some of the water and sewer lines. As larger areas get cleared, the District is beginning to target smaller and shorter easement areas.

What is an easement? - An easement is a strip of land that carries a water, sewer, electric or other utility service line. It gives the District the right to access and maintain the land without actually owning it. Easements are typically 10 to 20 feet wide and may not always be marked. A District water or sewer marker is a good indication of an easement.

Why maintain easements? - In the case of an emergency, the District needs to have quick and easy access to all utility easements in order to open/close valves or to repair a main break. Personnel and equipment must be able to access the area to make the repairs.

Trees that grow over the top of water/sewer lines often have roots that wrap around and eventually warp or break the lines. During windy conditions, the motion of the root balls of large, heavy trees over the top of the lines can severely stress and/or break the lines. Easements overgrown with trees, vines and brush restrict access to our lines for routine water valve or hydrant maintenance and sewer inspections.

What can you do? - Review your property deed, observe water and sewer line markers and understand where an easement is located and how large of an area it is. Do not plant any trees, large shrubs or bushes or build any sort of structure on the easement. Any structures or trees that need to be removed from an easement during an emergency can be removed without warning or compensation.



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District and City Win Second Place in Best Tasting Water Contest

Birch Bay Water and Sewer District and The City of Blaine won second place in the Northwest Subsection of the American Waterworks Association's (AWWA) 2013 Best Tasting Water Contest. The water was tasted by a panel of three judges who sampled water from a total of fourteen water purveyors in the Northwest Washington region. This is an improvement from our 3rd place ranking in 2012!

WATERING SCHEDULE

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
ODD	No Watering	EVEN	ODD	EVEN	ODD	EVEN

Effective June 1st through September 15th, the District will again be implementing its voluntary watering schedule to help manage our water supply during the summer months. Residents with odd numbered street addresses may water on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays. Residents with even numbered street addresses may water on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Mondays are non-watering days to allow the District's reservoirs to recharge after the weekend. For more information visit www.bbwsd.com or contact the District at 360-371-7100.

