



Spring 2024

# WATER WHYS

## The Latest from ECCV

*Sustaining our community by providing safe, reliable water*

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## Why We Flush Hydrants



Your drinking water supply comes from several places. A majority comes from the South Platte River, and undergoes extensive reverse osmosis filtration at the ECCV Northern Water Treatment Plant. Much of the rest comes from deep aquifer wells. Water from these deep aquifers is naturally filtered and only requires light treatment.

This deep aquifer water contains low levels of naturally-occurring iron and manganese—minerals that are common in many things we consume. Over time, these minerals can “fall out” of the water, creating sediment in water lines. Each spring, ECCV flushes the community water system to remove these build-ups.

Hydrant flushing also allows ECCV to check more than 2,000 hydrants throughout the District to make sure they are in good working order. This helps ECCV identify any hydrants that are in need of repair or replacement so they are ready for use in the event of an emergency.



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## Keeping Up With Regulations

Safe drinking water standards are set at both the federal and state level. Public water providers like ECCV work to ensure that the water delivered to your home meets these standards at all times.

That requires constant water quality testing. As national and state drinking water regulations increase, so does ECCV’s testing work. Regulations now require that ECCV test drinking water for roughly 140 total substances throughout each year. That’s a 40 percent increase from five years ago. Our team anticipates collecting roughly 3,300 water quality samples for testing in 2024, which is about 500 more annual samples than what was needed as recently as 2019.

Keeping up has required additional water quality staff and equipment to collect and analyze samples and coordinate with third-party labs.

This testing monitors everything from chlorine levels, which help keep water free of microbiological contaminants, to testing for dozens of different manmade chemicals and naturally occurring minerals.

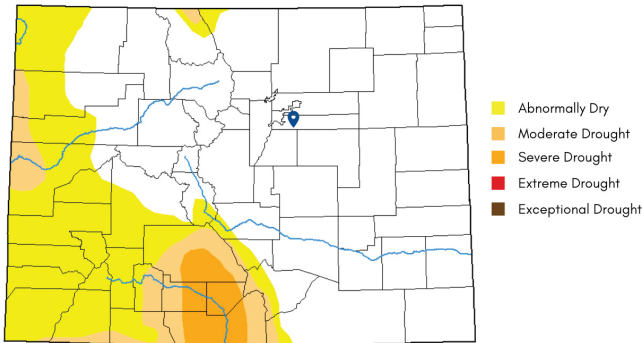
While ECCV has invested in, and maintains, effective water filtration and treatment systems—notably the Northern Water Treatment Plant—this vigilant monitoring confirms your drinking water remains safe and continues to meet evolving regulations.



Drinking water supplies work a lot like a bank account. Rain and snow equate to deposits, and heat and dry conditions act as withdrawals. Record-book rains last spring and summer provided a chance to build up our balance. Water supplies remain in good shape for this time of year.

Better still, winter concluded with snowpack in the South Platte River basin tracking close to the historical norm, and drought conditions have been kept at bay throughout much of the state. That’s all encouraging news, but when it comes to water supplies in the West, the strategy remains to hope for the best and plan for the worst.

A return of hot and dry conditions this spring and summer can quickly flip the ledger and steadily draw down supplies. Efficient outdoor watering and indoor use helps keep our community’s drinking water supply outlook strong throughout the summer. The more water that remains come fall and winter, the better off your water supply will be one year from now.




*The Front Range and eastern Colorado began spring free of drought conditions according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. While encouraging, a warm and dry spring can cause these conditions to quickly change.*

## Residential/Commercial Customers | Effective April 1-October 31, 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>EVEN</b> Numbered Addresses	<b>ODD</b> Numbered Addresses	<b>EVEN</b> Numbered Addresses	<b>ODD</b> Numbered Addresses	<b>EVEN</b> Numbered Addresses	<b>NO</b> Watering for Residential & Commercial Customers	<b>ODD</b> Numbered Addresses

ECCV uses an outdoor watering schedule to help conserve drinking water supplies and meet demand throughout the months of the year when water use is at its highest. From April 1 through October 31, ECCV customers can run sprinkler systems three days per week. Spot watering with a hose is permitted any day. Your watering schedule is determined by your address. Consult the schedule above to verify your watering days. The three-day per week schedule allows for healthy lawns, but also conserves water throughout the District.

As a reminder, you’ll likely see a noticeable increase to your monthly water bills when you begin running sprinkler systems. For most homes, outdoor watering accounts for the majority of a home’s annual drinking water use. ECCV’s Water Efficiency Specialist can work with you to find ways to get the most out of your watering and potentially reduce your water bill. Email [conservation@eccv.org](mailto:conservation@eccv.org) to learn more or find general outdoor watering tips at [www.eccv.org/customer-conservation-center](http://www.eccv.org/customer-conservation-center).



### Guide to Outdoor Water Savings

- 💧 No rush. Yards can often make it well into May before they need watering. Freezing temperatures are still possible in early spring so keeping systems off can avoid potential damage.
- 💧 Start slow. Spring storms and cooler temperatures can allow lawns to get by on one or two watering days per week when early season watering is necessary.
- 💧 Set sprinkler systems to run either at the very beginning (Midnight-9:00 a.m.) or very end (after 9:00 p.m.) of your scheduled watering days.
- 💧 Run three watering cycles, one hour apart, per zone. Giving soil time to absorb water prevents waste while giving lawns the water they need.

