



Fall 2023

WATER WHYS

The Latest from ECCV

Sustaining our community by providing safe, reliable water

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Access Your Water Use

Many ECCV customers have the ability to monitor their home water system through the free Eye On Water app that is compatible with the water meter on their property. We've heard a number of stories from customers about how Eye On Water has provided peace of mind.

15 Vacation monitoring: Customers have told us how the Eye On Water app helped them spot a leaking appliance (usually a toilet) when they were away. They were able to see continued water use at their home, even though they weren't there, and alert friends and family nearby so the leaking appliance could be shut off and then fixed upon their return.

Overnight watering: Watering yards overnight is ideal as it helps avoid losing water to evaporation. Customers have used Eye On Water to make sure their sprinklers are running at the intended time, and staying on for the intended duration.

Efficiency adjustments: Eye On Water has helped customers identify things inside and outside their homes that are causing water waste. That ranges from leaky toilets and faucets to cracked sprinkler lines. Spotting and fixing these leaks that may have otherwise gone undetected can make a big difference in monthly water bills.

Want more information, or looking for help getting set up with Eye On Water?

Head to www.eccv.org/homeowner-information-eow for tutorial videos, or email conservation@eccv.org.



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Avoiding Holiday Clogs

The holidays often find ovens, stovetops, fryers, and smokers getting put through their paces in preparing tasty meals. A byproduct of all this culinary delightfulness is FOG—Fats, Oils, and Grease.

FOG usually starts out as a liquid inside fryers, pots, roasting pans and drip trays making it awfully tempting to pour it down the drain. The problem is it doesn't stay liquid. Once cooled, FOG solidifies into a sludge that can build up in home sewer lines and even main lines. If enough FOG builds up it can block the line causing sewer backups in your home, or in some instances, homes throughout a neighborhood. Very unpleasant stuff.

Whether you're going all in and deep frying a whole turkey, or just roasting various foods, keep a few empty containers (with sealable lids) handy. Once FOG cools down to room temperature, pour it into the empty containers. From there you can mix in sand, sawdust or kitty litter to help it solidify, or toss the container in the freezer. Either way, make sure the the container lid is screwed on tightly. You can then dispose of the FOG containers in the trash.

One final note—oil from fryers can be re-used several times. Consider pouring cooled fryer oil back into its container and saving for your next deep frying recipe.



Help keep your home and neighborhood sewer lines flowing by properly disposing of cooking fats, oils, and grease this holiday season.

Water Efficiency Success

Record setting rains in late spring and early summer positioned yards and gardens for success and ECCV customers did an excellent job taking advantage of the weather. From keeping sprinkler systems off and letting rain do their watering, to jumping on some great water efficiency offers, customers once again kept water efficiency top of mind in Summer 2023.

150

Discounted, water-efficient
Gardens In A Box
purchased by ECCV customers

125

Free sprinkler assessments
and customized watering plans
provided to ECCV customers
through the *Slow the Flow* program

50

Attendees at *H2O, Now You Know*
virtual sessions with ECCV's
Water Efficiency Specialist

Preparing for Colder Weather

October and early November are the time to transition home water systems from summer to winter. Freezing temperatures can enter the forecast quickly. Having outdoor water lines emptied, and exposed indoor lines insulated helps avoid costly damage from burst pipes.

- * **Sprinkler systems**—ECCV recommends working with a professional to drain and blowout your system with pressurized air. If a hard freeze is expected before this can be completed, quick draining the sprinkler system is a do-it-yourself way to protect outdoor pipes and valves.
- * **Hoses**—Disconnect hoses from bibs and make sure they are fully drained.
- * **Exposed pipes**—Look for pipes inside your home in areas that aren't insulated or are near drafty doors and windows. These are susceptible to freezing when temperatures plummet. Wrap pipes with insulating blankets or tape to help prevent freezing. If using heat tape, it's recommended you consult with a professional as incorrect application can result in a fire.
- * **Master shutoff valve**—It's worth making sure everyone in your home knows where this is located. In the event of a burst pipe, this valve will shut off the flow of water inside your home and help minimize costly damage.



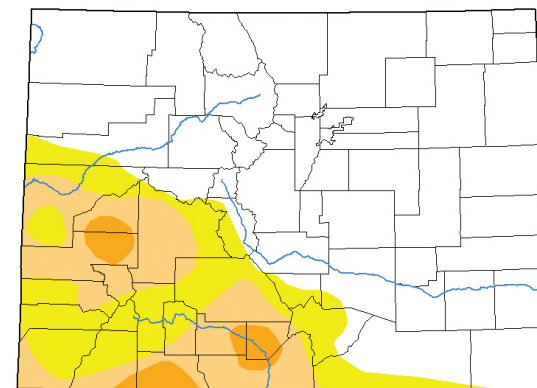
Master shutoff valves are typically located close to where water pipes enter the home. This is often near entryways, but may also be in basements.

A Summer Rarity

Our area made it through a full summer without experiencing any level of drought conditions. That's somewhat of a rarity. In many recent years, a hot and dry August and September found us entering fall in varying degrees of drought. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, the last time our area concluded summer without any drought conditions was 2014.

The rain allowed ECCV and other water providers along the Front Range to replenish water supplies. Winter snowpack, while fair in recent years, has not been enough to offset heightened demand caused by scorching, dry summers. The rain we received in May and June reduced the need for outdoor watering and also filled the South Platte River with enough water that ECCV and other users were able to steadily refill their water supplies.

That's a benefit that will last beyond this summer. If recent trends continue, next spring and summer could very well bring a return of drought conditions. Having more water in storage over the winter will be helpful should we get another mild snowpack and a hot, dry spring and summer in 2024.



The U.S. Drought Monitor shows drought conditions developing in southern areas of Colorado as of September 2023. The ECCV area made it through the entire summer free of drought conditions.