



Keep Your Summer Garden At Its Best + Avoid Overwatering

Not only can overwatering be detrimental to the health of your plants but it also leads to increased water costs. Best practices suggest planting water-efficient or native shrubs, trees, and grasses (visit www.epa.gov/watersense/what-plant for recommended plants). If you choose to have a traditional garden with all types of green grass, flowers, shrubs and trees, here are some tips to save money while still keeping your yard looking its best:

1. Water Your Garden With Water Collected Using Rain Barrels

- Rain barrels collect water from a roof and store it for future uses such as watering lawns, gardens or indoor plants. This prevents precipitation from falling on surfaces such as roads, parking lots, and rooftops then spreading contaminants to storm drains and local streams, eroding our banks and polluting our waterways.
- It's also a great way to conserve water and get FREE water to use. A national survey conducted by DC Urban Gardeners said using rain barrels can lower water bills by about \$35 a month in the summer. After you install your rain barrel you may even be eligible for a stormwater bill credit. Visit rva.gov/public-utilities/stormwater-utility for more information.



2. Know Your Specific Plant Water Needs

- The general rule is to ensure the top six inches of lawn soil is moist, six to 10 inches for perennials; and eight to 12 inches for trees and shrubs.
- In addition to avoiding overwatering, it is important to avoid too shallow irrigation. Restricting watering doesn't promote plant roots to grow as deep and the roots become less efficient using deeper soil moisture, leading to more frequent watering needs.



3. Understand Your Irrigation System

- Identify how much water and the rate it is applied using each setting to determine which one is best for your needs. Monitor your systems while it is running, to ensure your watering is operating uniformly across the entire surface area. Also make sure the placement of your sprinklers cover only permeable surfaces instead of concrete.
- Install an inexpensive rain sensor to turn off automatic irrigation systems during rainfall.



Take Advantage of Financial Opportunities To Get Current On Your Bill

We understand financial hardships and want to ensure every customer can continue to have access to safe, clean and reliable utility services. For customers that need financial assistance, we invite you to explore available options at www.rva.gov/public-utilities/billing. All customers that are behind on their utility bill can enter into a payment arrangement that allows an opportunity to get caught up on past due accounts with options of up to a 12-month repayment agreement. This option also stops late fees from accumulating. **Act now to avoid future disconnection and/or collection activity.**



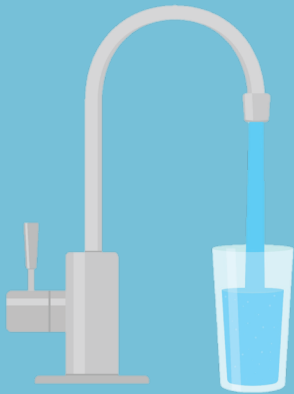
Citizens Academy Back In Session

Do you know how your water gets to your tap? Have you ever wondered where everything goes after you flush? If so, you're not the only one. For the first time since 2019, the City of Richmond Department of Public Utilities was excited to host the spring Citizens Academy. A small group of everyday citizens attended and learned all the behind the scenes information about our treatment processes. In the course of four sessions, participants toured our facilities such as the Wastewater Treatment Plant, Water Treatment Plant, Floodwall, Shockoe Retention Basin and more. Each session they learned directly from our experienced water professionals just what it takes to provide clean and safe drinking water to Richmonders, from the financial process to the technical knowledge. This time was also the perfect opportunity for participants to get any questions they've ever had directly answered. If you missed registration for the Spring Session no worries, we will be back in the fall. Be on the lookout for more information and the application posted on our blog at rva.gov/public-utilities/news coming in late summer.



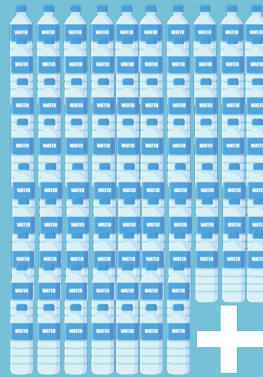
How much does water cost you?

To drink the recommended daily 64 oz of water each month it'll cost:



Tap Water
6¢/month*

vs.



Bottled Water
\$175.06/month*

*Calculations are based on current rate prices and the average cost of bottled water.

Apply To Join Team DPU

The City of Richmond Department of Public Utilities is actively hiring qualified applicants for various positions. Not only are we looking for experienced applicants but also new graduates ready to learn a new trade. If you are interested in starting a career at DPU please visit www.governmentjobs.com. We are looking for applicants to fill a wide variety of positions such as utility plant specialist, water quality technician, construction inspector, utilities tech services specialist and many more. The job board is updated frequently so be sure to check back for new positions. The City strives to hire and retain employees who bring dedication and talent to the workforce. We offer a competitive, cost effective, and quality full range benefits package from initial hire through retirement. Please visit www.rva.gov/human-resources for more details.

Flood Map Changes Are Coming To Richmond

Flood maps are being updated to provide a more accurate picture of a property's flood risk and insurance needs. As a result, business owners and residents will be able to make more informed decisions to help ensure your personal safety and financial security. Be on the lookout for more information including a series of public meetings to learn more and to see if your property is impacted.

8/11 Is National 811 Day

The City of Richmond Department of Public Utilities encourages you to always call 811 BEFORE you dig. Allow 3 to 5 business days (excluding weekends and legal holidays) for 811 to mark your dig site for possible utility lines.

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