



# UTILITY TALK

November/December 2024

Providing safe and reliable water and gas services.

Serving Richmond, Henrico and North Chesterfield

## How To Protect Your Pipes from **Fats, Oils and Grease**

With the cooler season amongst us, there's nothing more comforting this time of year than cooking up warm, hearty meals. However, these dishes often produce more fats, oils and grease, which can be difficult to manage. Proper disposal and handling of FOG is essential to keep your home and local plumbing system running smoother. Utilize these tips to protect your pipes:

### Store Grease in A Container

Use a metal, glass or plastic container to store leftover grease. Allow the grease to cool before storing, then throw the container into the trash once it is full.



### Wipe Before You Wash

Wipe off greasy pans with a paper towel before washing to reduce the amount of grease going down the drain and prevent drainage issues.



### Protect Your Drains

Use strainers or mesh screens over sink drains to catch food scraps and solid debris.



## **ATTENTION:** Have your plans ever been disrupted by unexpected City of Richmond Department of Public Utilities work? You may be entitled to sign up for CivicReady.

No matter if you want notification of natural gas and water service interruptions, road closures or emergency work in your area CivicReady is the tool for you. CivicReady is a **FREE** service\* available to any Richmond resident. Stay informed of utility work in your area with CivicReady. Users are notified via their preferred method(s) including call, text or email promptly. There is also a mobile app, MyAlerts, available for download. To sign up scan the QR code or visit [rva.gov/public-utilities/](http://rva.gov/public-utilities/).

**Scan To Sign Up Today:**



\*Standard text messaging rates and other charges may apply.

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

DPU remains committed to providing clean, safe and reliable utility services while creating exceptional value. If you have fallen behind on your payments, DPU has financial assistance programs available. To learn more please visit our website [rva.gov/public-utilities/billing](http://rva.gov/public-utilities/billing) or scan the QR code.



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# Affordable Tools to Weatherize Your Home on A Budget

Prepping your home for the colder seasons doesn't have to break the bank. These budget friendly solutions will help you save energy and stay warm all season long. Visit [rva.gov/public-utilities/news](http://rva.gov/public-utilities/news) for more tips.

## 1 Door Sweeps

Prices range from **\$9 to \$17** depending on the type and material.

## 2 Weather Stripping

Foam strips are **\$5** and can go up to **≥ \$15** for materials like silicone or rubber.

## 3 Caulking

A standard tube is approx. **\$3 to \$8**, depending on the brand and type.

## 4 Window Insulation

Prices range from **\$7 to \$15**, with variations based on size and brand.

## 5 Water Tank Cover

Prices range from **\$20 to \$40** based on the material and thickness.

## 6 Outlet Covers

Prices range from **\$3 to \$7** for a pack.

## 7 LED Light Bulb

Prices for a single LED bulb range from **\$2 to \$6**.

## 8 Furnace Filter

Depending on size and MERV rating, prices range from **\$10 to \$25** for a single filter.

## 9 Stairway Attic Cover

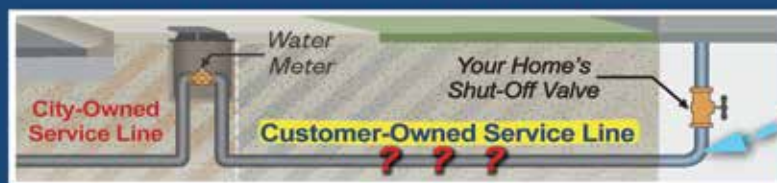
Prices range from **\$50 to \$150**, based on the level of insulation and size.

## DPU and YOU! Let's Get the Lead Out!

The Department of Public Utilities met the October federal deadline to submit an inventory map that identifies the material of all water service lines in the City of Richmond. This inventory is required as part of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Lead and Cooper Rule Revisions and helps municipalities create a plan to replace all lead pipes by the newly passed deadline of 2037.

DPU has published this interactive map and needs the help of customers. We invite you to visit the map to determine whether a survey is requested for your property. Customers at properties with service lines that are unknown or confirmed lead or galvanized will receive annual notification letters beginning this November as required.

## WHAT IS THIS?



**We remind citizens that eliminating the risk of lead getting into drinking water is a shared responsibility. Richmond's drinking water does not contain lead when it leaves the treatment plant.** Rather, instances of lead in water can occur from water service lines made of lead as well as internal plumbing materials. A portion of each water service line is owned by the City (public), and a portion is owned by the property owner (private). Visit the City of Richmond Lead Free Water Program website at [rva.gov/public-utilities/leadfreewater](http://rva.gov/public-utilities/leadfreewater) or scan the QR code to view the map and for more details.

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