

“THE PUDDLE”

THE NORTH KINGSTOWN DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY NEWSLETTER

December 2020

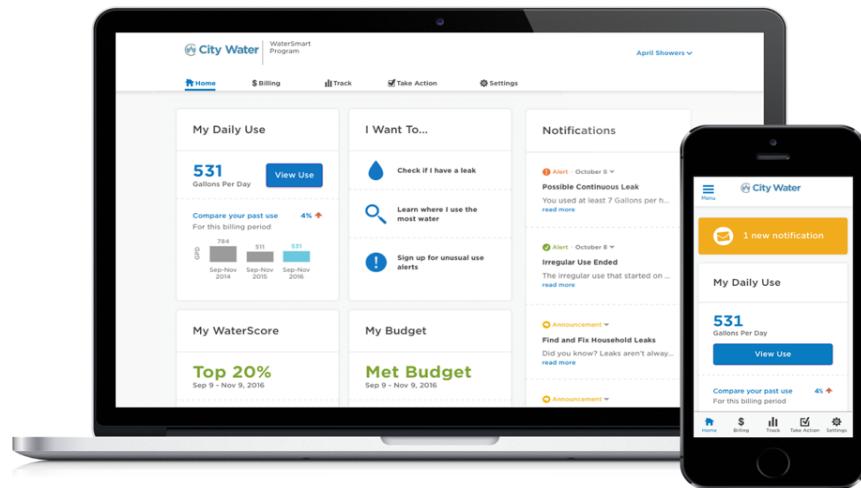


**North
Kingstown**
Rhode Island

COMING SOON



WELCOME TO THE WATERSMART PROGRAM



WHAT YOU'LL GET

The WaterSmart Portal will help you track your home's water use at macro and micro levels.

-  **How you compare.** See how your water use compares to similar homes.
-  **Ways to save.** Get personalized, step-by-step actions.
-  **News and events.** Stay up to date.



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With cold weather now finally upon us, here are some helpful hints to homeowners preparing for the chill of winter.

- 1) If your home has a crawl space, invest in some heat tape. It uses a small amount of electricity but can save you lots of money and aggravation by preventing piping freeze-up.
- 2) Cover foundation vents and windows with foam blocks, insulation, or thickly folded newspaper to prevent cold winds from entering and freezing your pipes.
- 3) Turn off and drain in-ground sprinkler systems. An investment of a little time here can save you a huge repair bill in the spring.
- 4) Disconnect and drain all hoses from outside faucets.
- 5) Remove hose bib vacuum breakers from outside faucets.
- 6) If you cannot isolate and drain all outside faucets (most homes have a dedicated shutoff for each outside faucet in the basement), then protect them with insulating blankets or covers.
- 7) Be sure you know where your main shut-off is located, in the event of an emergency.
- 8) Do not forget about the swimming pool! Use environmentally friendly antifreeze products appropriately.

Water Use During This COVID19 Summer

If you follow the news in Rhode Island, you may have seen evidence of concern from our East Greenwich and Warwick neighbors just to the north of us regarding the increases in their water bill for this summer versus previous years. As we at the North Kingstown Water Department examine overall water use in our community, we do see evidence of similar trends. It is important to keep in mind the undeniable reality that we were all home quite a bit more than we ever were before and, because of that, we all have used more water. This situation was also compounded by very dry droughty summer which has led to more outdoor water usage than is normal, especially for folks with inground sprinkler systems.