



September 2014

Village Voice

The Newsletter of the Village of Chatham

Village Board

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Meetings

Planning Commission
Third Thursday of the month
7:00 p.m.
Village Hall
117 East Mulberry

Village Board
Second and Fourth Tuesday
of the month
6:00 p.m.
Village Hall
117 East Mulberry

Why Does My Water Get Milky White?

By Shane Hill, Utilities Manager

Milky white water, also commonly described as cloudy, hazy, soapy, or foamy is almost always caused by air in the water. One of the many properties of water is its ability to dissolve gases-including air. Sometimes the air comes back out of the water in the form of many tiny bubbles; this gives the water a milky white appearance. To see if the white color in the water is due to air, fill a clear glass with water and set it on the counter. Observe the water for 2 or 3 minutes. If the white color is due to air, the water will begin to clear at the bottom of the glass first and then gradually will clear all the way to the top. This is a natural phenomenon and is completely normal; the water is safe to use. This situation can happen when the water gets cold, or whenever the water has been turned off for repairs. Cold water holds more dissolved air than warm water. In the winter and spring, the water is cold and contains a relatively high level of dissolved air. As the water moves through the water mains in the street and the pipes in your house, it begins to warm up and lose some of its ability to keep the air dissolved. However, because the water is under pressure in the pipes, the air remains in the water. When you relieve the pressure by opening the faucet and filling your glass with water, the air is now free to escape from the water, giving it a milky appearance for a few minutes. Another way for this milky white water to form is after your water utility has worked on the water main (i.e. flushing) or you have had work done on you plumbing. When the water is shut off, air can get into the water main or your pipes. When the water pressure is restored, some of the air dissolves into the water. When you again relieve the pressure by opening the faucet and filling your glass of water, the air is now free to escape from the water thus giving it a milky white appearance for a few minutes. If your water is cloudy/milky and does not clear in a glass after 5 minutes, you should call the village of Chatham water department for testing.

Reference milky white water; DuPage water commission
<http://dpwc.org/WaterFaqs/tabid/92/Default.aspx>

Budget Billing

Budget billing is a program available to Village of Chatham residential utility customers to even out their utility costs by paying the same amount each month. The budget billing amount is determined by averaging the bills from your previous 12 months and adding 15%. This 15% is an attempt to cover any fluctuations in the actual cost due to supplier rate changes or unexpected weather extremes. Application forms and enrollment instructions will be sent out in your October utility bill. These will also be available on our website at www.chathamil.net.

Who is eligible for budget billing?

Customers must meet the following criteria to be eligible for budget billing:

- Have a 12 month billing history at your current location.
- Be a customer in good standing with the Village of Chatham, having no more than 2 late payment penalties within the past 12 months.
- Have a zero (\$0.00) balance on your account before your first budget billing statement is generated.
- After two delinquent payments the account is not eligible for budget billing for a minimum period of 12 months.
- Budget billing accounts are ineligible for time extensions or payment arrangements.

Leak Detection Tips

To check for concealed leaks, there are two good do-it-yourself approaches:

The Meter Check
Check all faucets, inside and outside, to make sure they are off. Find your inside water meter and mark the position of the test dial hand with a crayon or pen and write down the digits of the meter reading. Wait 20 minutes to one hour. Do not use any water during this time, and when the time is up, check the test dial on the meter to see if the hand has moved away from the mark you made. Also check the reading to see if it changed. If the hand has moved and/or the reading has changed, you have some type of leak.



Listen for Leaks

Check all faucets, inside and out, to make sure they are off. Take a large regular screwdriver (preferably 10" or longer) and firmly place it on the hot or cold side of any faucet. Place your ear on the plastic handle and listen for water sounds. You can also do this test on any exposed pipes, valves or fittings. If you hear the sound of running water (it is very noticeable), you have a leak. Faucets, pipes and fittings should have no sound if there is no leak.



Look for Faucet Leaks

All faucets, including those in the basement or storage areas, should be checked periodically. Most faucet and shower head leaks result from worn washers. Replace washers on dripping faucets and showers immediately. Even a small leak can waste several gallons of water a day and can add up on your water bill. Your water heating costs will also increase if it is a hot water leak.

The Drip Chart

A continuous leak in the diameter sizes shown at an average household water pressure of 60 PSI could, over a three month period, result in the approximate water losses listed:

	A dripping faucet wastes 1,500 gallons in three months
	Wastes 18,000 gallons in three months
	Wastes 70,000 gallons in three months
	Wastes 300,000 gallons in three months
	Wastes 1,000,000 gallons in three months

Look for Toilet Leaks

A leaking toilet is one of the most common water wasters, but toilet leaks are less noticeable than faucet leaks. Here are some simple tests that you can use to see if you have a toilet leak:

Flush the toilet. Wait for the toilet to stop refilling, then make a visual inspection of the bowl. If water is still running into the bowl, or if water can be heard, your toilet is leaking.



Remove the toilet tank lid and check the water level in the tank. The water level should come up to 1" or so below the opening to the overflow pipe. If the water level is too high, water can flow continuously down the overflow tube. If the water level is even with the top of the overflow tube, try sprinkling a little powder on the surface of the water. If you see the powder go down the overflow tube, the toilet is leaking.

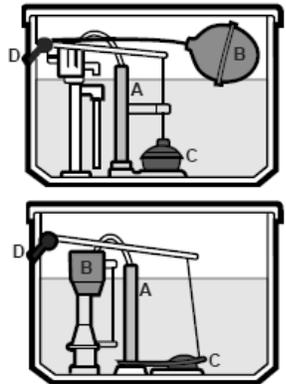
Although water may not be seen or heard running, your toilet may have a silent leak. Try conducting this simple experiment. Take the lid off the toilet tank and add a couple drops of food coloring to the water in the tank. Do not flush. Wait 15 minutes. If the food coloring shows up in the toilet bowl, your toilet has a leak. The plunger ball or flapper probably needs to be cleaned or replaced, or there could be a crack in the overflow tube.

Check the operation of the flush handle. Take the lid off the toilet tank and flush the toilet. Make sure that the handle mechanisms operate smoothly and don't hang-up or jam. Check the chain that goes from the handle mechanism to the flapper at the bottom of the tank. The chain can get caught under the flapper if it is too long. A sticking handle can keep the flapper or float ball from completely closing off the bottom drain and the result can be a huge water bill.

Toilet Troubleshooting

Check your toilets for leaks twice a year:

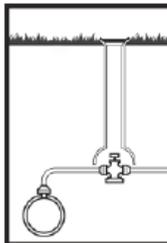
- A. Overflow Tube**
The tank water level should be 1" below the opening of this tube. If the level is higher, water can leak down the tube. Adjust the water level with the adjustment screw or adjustment clip.
- B. Toilet Float**
These floats can wear out in 2 to 7 years, faster if you use chemicals in the tank. Replace yours if it's cracked or water logged.
- C. Flush Valve Bulb or Flapper**
These rubber valves may not seat completely, causing water to leak around them. Clean, repair or replace faulty flush valves.
- D. Handle**
The handle controls the lifting and lowering of the flapper or bulb. Tighten a loose handle or straighten the control arm if it is rubbing. Check all connections for smooth operation. When the toilet is flushed, make sure nothing catches under the flapper.



Check Your Service Line for Leaks

Your service line is the pipe that connects your house to the water main. It's buried 42" underground (below the frost line) to keep it from freezing in the winter. A service line leak will not increase your bill, but repairs to the owner's line can be expensive.

Find your curb box, the metal cylinder that allows access to the valve that controls the water flow from the main to your house. Look for the lid in your yard, sidewalk or driveway. It is usually made of cast iron, is about 5" in diameter and typically says "WATER." Call 311 or 645-8270 if you see water seeping from your curb box.



Other Symptoms of a Service Line Leak: Look at the walls where your service line enters the house (illustrated below). Look for discoloration, moisture and sponginess. At the same time, check to see



if your main control valve (located next to your water meter) is leaking. Repairs to this valve are the owner's responsibility, although we will turn off water free of charge so that the repair can be completed. If the meter is leaking, call us at 311 or 645-8270.

Check the building foundation for cracking, vegetation growing unevenly or heaving of the earth for no apparent reason.

Look for a soft spot or depression in your yard, often accompanied by a drop in household water pressure.

Check Outside Taps for Leaks

Periodically check outside taps for leaks, especially during the summer watering season. A hose mistakenly left on can dribble away thousands of gallons of water over the course of a summer. Remember to close outside faucets tightly.

Outside taps can freeze in frigid winter temperatures. A frozen spigot can crack or burst and turn your yard into a lake of ice. If your house does not have frost proof spigots, be sure to turn water off at the valve on the line that supplies the outside tap.

Other Places to Look for Leaks

Humidifier - A humidifier needs a continuous supply of water, often supplied by a line or tubing plumbed directly into the mechanism. Control valves can stick open, causing water to flow through the humidifier.

Ice Maker - Automatic refrigerator ice-makers also have supply lines or tubing. This tubing can spring a leak, sometimes even inside a wall.

Water Softener - Control valves can stick on water softeners, causing them to continuously recharge. Supply lines can spring leaks.

Underground Lines - Some homes and businesses have plumbing lines running from one building to another or to a detached garage or storage building. Breaks on these lines are difficult to find. Watch for wet spots or ground erosion near where lines are located or listen on the line that goes underground to hear if water is leaking.

Swimming Pool - To check your pool for a leak, fill a five gallon plastic bucket to approximately 1" from the top with pool water and mark the water level in the bucket. Mark the normal water level on the pool with tape, a wax pencil or crayon. Turn off all water filling devices. Place the bucket on a step in the pool and wait 24 hours. If the water level in the pool drops more than the water level in the bucket, you have a leak.

Hot Water Tank - Water heaters can spring leaks at the fittings or from the drain valve at the bottom of the tank.

Also, corrosion can eat through the inside liner. Leakage from a hot water tank can go undetected for a long time if the tank is in a basement with a floor drain. A higher than normal electric or gas bill could be caused by a hot water tank leak.

Sprinkler System - In ground sprinkler systems can spring leaks that are very difficult to find. Be sure to drain your system before cold winter temperatures freeze the lines and cause leaks.

Fix all leaks immediately. Some plumbing repairs, such as replacing faucet washers or toilet parts, can be done by a handy do-it-yourselfer. If you're not handy, have the work done by someone who knows how to do the job.



This information was provided by:
The City of Columbus, Ohio
Department of Public Utilities
Division of Power and Water

Department of Public Utilities

Leak Detection Brochure



Information to Save Water & Money






2014 Chicago Deal Making Trade Show

Due to the great success at last years show, representatives of the Village of Chatham will be returning to the International Council of Shopping Centers Chicago Deal Making trade show. Village representatives will attend the show with the intention of creating lasting relationships with well-known retailers, restaurants and developers in order to bring their business to Chatham.

This will be the second year the Village of Chatham has had a booth at the show and Village officials are confident that their attendance will once again prove beneficial. The show will be taking place in Chicago on October 7th and 8th. Attending this show is one of many steps Village Officials are taking towards building commercial growth for the community.



The Village of Chatham will be starting The Fall Limb Pick-up Program on October 6, 2014. Each resident will have two opportunities for their branches and limbs to be picked up.

Policy Rules

1. Chipping will be removed by the Village crews during the dates posted below
2. No whole trees will be removed by the Village
3. All branches and limbs must be placed curb side or in the ditch line

Curb side limb pick-up schedule:

All residents **WEST** of Park Avenue - October 6th - 10th
 All residents **EAST** of Park Avenue - October 13th - 17th

ALL Village residents - November 17th - 21st

All branches and limbs must be placed curb side or in the ditch line in front of the customer's residence by 7:00 a.m. Monday morning of the week designated for

Yard Waste Pick-Up

FALL 2014

Citizens of Chatham may pick-up yard waste bags from the Village Utility Office located at 116 E. Mulberry starting on October 6, 2014 through October 24, 2014. The office is open between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. Please remember: There is a 3-bundle limit per household.



Curb side pick up schedule will be as follows:

All residents **WEST** of Park Avenue - October 20th - 24th
 All residents **EAST** of Park Avenue - October 27th - 31st

 All residents **WEST** of Park Avenue - November 3rd - 7th
 All residents **EAST** of Park Avenue - November 10th - 14th

All bags must be placed at curb side or ditch area by 7:00 a.m. on Monday mornings to ensure the weekly pick-up.

Any bags with grass clippings will NOT be picked up

Fall Clean-Up

By Shane Hill, Utilities Manager

This year's fall clean-up will be held on Saturday, September 27th and October 4th. The collection area will be at the Chatham Community Park on South Main. Citizens will be directed to enter the Community Park from Park Street and exit on S. Main St. Collection times will be from 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. each Saturday. To participate, you must be a resident of the Village of Chatham and an I.D. will be required.



The Village will furnish dumpsters. Personnel will be available to **assist** the residents in unloading their materials.

Materials NOT accepted include: paint, chemicals, tires, yard waste, batteries, dirt, computers, televisions, concrete, roofing, railroad ties or any appliances with freon. If other materials are identified by the waste haulers, we will announce them before the clean-up.

If you are at least 65 or handicapped and need assistance with your material, please call the Village office at 483-2451 and your name will be placed on a pickup list. Please let us know what items you will need to get rid of at the time you call.



116 E. Mulberry Street
Chatham, IL 62629
217-483-2451
217-483-3574 (Fax)

We're on the Web
www.chathamil.net



U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Standard Mail
Chatham, IL
Permit No. 5

Residential Customer
Chatham, IL 62629

If your organization has an event or story that you'd like included in the *Village Voice*, send an email to lpaice@chathamil.net.

Chatham Business Information



AccessRx Network, LLC
316 Williams Lane • 217-697-5533

Church by Waters Edge
342 Williams Lane • 217-361-3343

Discount Liquor of Chatham
107 East Walnut • 217-415-9226

Haven Pod, LLC
241 Industrial Drive • 618-535-3555

Rt. 66 Monster Tattoos
211 North Main Street • 217-717-5692



Great Wall
1045 Jason Place

DID YOU KNOW THAT THERE ARE
**468 BUSINESSES
IN CHATHAM?**

**TOP 5 REASONS TO
SHOP LOCAL**

1. Local Character and Prosperity
2. Community Well-Being
3. Local Decision-Making
4. Keeping Dollars in the Local Economy
5. Jobs and Wages

SHOP SMART. SHOP LOCAL.



**Non Emergency Police Number
217-483-2453**