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DPW News and Updates for Ayer Residents

Stay in the Know

The best way to stay informed with timely news, updates, and alerts is to sign up for the Town of Ayer E-Alerts.

<https://www.ayer.ma.us/subscribe>

Alerts come as an email right to your inbox. You can choose from a list to tailor your news.

Information about Your Drinking Water

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific man-made and naturally occurring contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards.

In 2021 we did not monitor and report the parameters of pH, alkalinity, and orthophosphate at locations and frequencies required by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). These parameters are used to evaluate the effectiveness of our corrosion control program to minimize the lead and copper concentrations at user's taps.

We have already collected, analyzed samples, and submitted results to the DEP.

As our customers, you have a right to know. For more information and to view the latest Water Quality Report, go to our webpage:

<https://www.ayer.ma.us/water>

PFAS Update

The Town of Ayer first discovered the presence of PFAS, sometimes referred to as "forever chemicals," in the drinking water in 2016. The Town took immediate action to minimize risk to customers and install treatment for these contaminants.

We are happy to report that both water treatment facilities are now up and running. Treatment for PFAS at Grove Pond Wellfield has been in operation since November 2020 and now at Spectacle Pond Wellfield since July 2022.

Since that time, water entering the system has repeatedly tested as non-detectable for these regulated contaminants and you can have confidence in the quality of your drinking water.

For a history and continued updates, go to our website: <https://www.ayer.ma.us/water-department/pages/pfas-drinking-water>.

Ayer Wastewater Needs Your Help!



It's a Toilet, Not a Trash Can

Throughout the year, Wastewater Staff respond to calls and complaints for sewer problems of clogged pipes and pumpstations because items are being flushed down the toilet that shouldn't be. These actions end up costing rate payers and are preventable.

Remember that "Flushable" wipes are NOT flushable.

Other items that should not be flushed, put down the garbage disposal, or the drain:

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|------------|
| Dental Floss | Baby Wipes | Cleaning Wipes | Plastic |
| Hair | Bandages | Rags and Towels | Cat Litter |
| Latex Gloves | Medications | Cotton Swabs | Tampons |
| Rubber items | Fruit Stickers | Sanitary Napkins | Syringes |
| Candy/Food Wrappers | | Aquarium Gravel | |
| Disposable Toilet Brushes | | Fat, Cooking Oil, Grease | |

Toss them in the trash instead.

Ayer Transfer Station

The Ayer Transfer Station offers affordable disposal of household trash, recyclables, and bulk items for Ayer residents. Access requires the purchase of an annual permit, bags, and bulk items stickers.

Hours of operation have recently been expanded:

- Wednesday 7 am – 7 pm
- Saturday 7 am – 3 pm
- Sunday 7 am – 3 pm

As of November 1st, mattresses and box springs can no longer be accepted as trash. For more information, including a list of what is and is not accepted, please go to our website:

<https://www.ayer.ma.us/transfer-station>.

Use Your Water Meter to Find Leaks Before a High Water Bill Finds You

Leaks in your home or business plumbing can be costly. Most leaks are silent and we have no idea they are even happening. Luckily, you can use your meter to determine if even the slightest amount of water is passing through the meter.

Pictured right is a meter register located on the top of most meters. If your meter register doesn't look like this or if you are having trouble locating your meter, please call the DPW office at 978-772-8420.

Below right are the different signals you may get on your LCD display and what they mean.

To begin, shut off all water using appliances and water fixtures inside and outside of your home or business. If there is no leak, not water will be going through the meter.

To activate the register, expose the solar panel to a bright light, for example, a flashlight or cell phone flashlight. When first activated, the LCD display will first show a test. Following the test, the screen toggles between a read screen and a flow rate screen.

Read – Shows the current read with comma separators and decimal place, after initial activation this screen displays for 20 seconds before toggling to the Rate Screen. Each additional Read Screen displays for 8 seconds.

Flow Rate – When the screen toggles, the rate of flow is visible and is shown in gallons per minute for four seconds. Then it toggles back to the Read Screen.



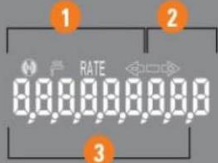
If there is even the slightest amount of water passing through the meter, the Rate Screen will be greater than 0.00. You will also see the "Leak Indicator" displayed and you may see the Flow Indicator flashing, see chart.

Time to investigate.

- Listen for the sound of running water.
- Look for signs of water near fixtures.
- Another place to check is water at the meter.

Often a leak could have a simple fix. If you cannot determine the cause of the leak or if the leak is not easily fixable, you may need to call a plumber.



	<p>FLOW INDICATOR Shows the direction of flow through the meter:</p> <p>ON Water in use. OFF Water not in use. Flashing Water is running slowly. (-) Reverse flow. (+) Forward flow.</p>
	<p>LEAK INDICATOR Displays a possible leak:</p> <p>OFF No leak indicated. Flashing Intermittent leak indicates that water has been used for at least 50 of the 96 15-minute intervals during the previous 24-hour period. On Continuously Indicates water use for all 96 15-minute intervals during the previous 24-hour period.</p>
<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">RATE</p>	<p>RATE OF FLOW Average flow rate is displayed every twelve (12) seconds on LCD display.</p>
	<p>LCD DISPLAY Nine-digit LCD displays the meter reading in billing units of measure: U.S. gallons, cubic feet, Imperial gallons, or cubic metres.</p> <p>1 E-Coder Basic Reading/Customary 6-digit remote reading 2 Customary sweep hand digits 3 E-CoderPLUS Reading (8-digit remote reading)</p>

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail. For more information about this notice, please contact the department.