

## When do I use Iowa One Call?

Anytime you plan to excavate, including digging or trenching. Whether it's a small or a large construction project or homeowner project, call **Iowa One Call** at least 48 hours prior to excavating (excluding weekends and/or holidays). **Iowa One Call** will notify the owners/operators of underground facilities who participate in **Iowa One Call**. The various underground facility operators will dispatch "locate" personnel to the area to mark the underground facility locations with flags and paint markings. Homeowners, contractors, and excavators can make this process more efficient and effective by marking the area they intend to excavate with white marking paint and/or flags. Examples of when **Iowa One Call** needs to be called include:

- Installing a fence or drainage system
- Planting trees or shrubs or terracing and landscaping
- Building a patio, addition, deck, garage, outdoor shed or putting in a new driveway

The toll-free Iowa One Call number is 1-800-292-8989.

509 **Contact us:** [H2oinfo@iowa-city.org](mailto:H2oinfo@iowa-city.org) [www.icgov.org/water](http://www.icgov.org/water) 356-5164

## 2009 Consumer Confidence Water Report

The 2009 Consumer Confidence Water Report will be delivered to over 33,000 households in Iowa City during the month of June. This report explains where your water comes from and the treatment process used to make it safe for drinking. The "2009 Drinking Water Quality Report" lists the EPA water quality regulations and what was detected in our water during our extensive sampling and testing program last year. The Iowa City Water Division works around the clock to provide top quality water to every customer. We will continue to partner with our customers to protect and conserve water sources and to provide an economical, safe and dependable water supply now and into the future. We are proud to report that our water comfortably surpasses all Federal and State Water Quality Standards. As the format of the report is somewhat technical, please feel free to contact us for more information or questions at 356-5164.

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## Your hose may be hazardous to your health!

A standard vinyl garden hose is manufactured with chemicals that ensure the hose stays flexible and leak-proof. These substances can actually leach out of the hose and into the water that passes through it, making the water unsafe for people or pets; however, there are special types of hoses approved by the U.S. Food & Drug Administration that are safe for human and animal consumption. Look for this information on the packaging when you purchase.

Hoses have also been known to be bacteria carriers. In 1995, a number of children at a Gainesville, Florida day camp became ill after filling beverage coolers from a hose that had been used to wash garbage cans. Many people apply flower and lawn chemicals from a hose-end sprayer, and this poses a risk for both the hose end threads becoming contaminated as well as the possibility of backflow pulling the chemical(s) back into the household water supply.

### To Keep Your Water Safe:

- Do purchase an FDA approved hose if used for drinking.
- Never submerge hoses in buckets, pools, tubs or sinks.
- Always keep the end of the hose clear of possible contaminants.

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## Welcome Back to Water Works Prairie Park

Water Works Prairie Park, located at 80 Stephen Atkins Drive just off of North Dubuque Street, is home to Iowa City's drinking water purification facility and water sources. In June 2008 the park was significantly challenged as the Iowa River surged over the land. Hundreds of volunteers came out to protect our water sources and then clean up the aftermath of the flood. Trails have been repaired and plans are being revised to further protect the City's water sources. As part of a well head protection plan, the park was designed to be a quiet natural haven for birds, beasts, and humans. The park includes a number of wetland areas, a lake with a fishing pier, and acres of prairie and timber. There are over two miles of paved trail for bicyclists, skaters, and walkers to roam. Visitors will find wildlife in abundance including bald eagles, blue birds, turkeys, pheasants, ducks, geese, cranes, beaver, coyote, deer, rabbits, squirrels, turtles, and snakes. The park is open from dawn to dusk. If you bring your dogs they must remain on a leash to protect the local wildlife as well as the humans enjoying the site.

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## Do you have water leaks that are raising the cost of living?

The amount of water leaking from plumbing fixtures in U.S. homes could exceed more than 1 trillion gallons a year. Water leaked still requires electricity to pump, supply and treat. That's a real waste of energy resources! If one out of every ten American homes addressed their leaky plumbing fixtures, not only would it save lots of water but it could also save more than 400 million kilowatt-hours of electricity annually, avoiding approximately 315,000 tons of greenhouse gas emissions. That's equivalent to taking nearly 55,000 cars off the road. Check <http://www.epa.gov/watersense> for more information.

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## Reading your water meter can find a leak and save you money.

Iowa City's water meters are read approximately every 28 days for billing purposes. You can also read the register and check for leaks; the water meter register can be read much like the odometer in your car. You can determine consumption over a period of time by recording an initial reading at the beginning of the time period. At the end of the time period, take a second reading from the register and subtract the initial reading to determine the consumption. The meters in Iowa City register water in cubic ft. and the conversion is 7.48 gallons = 1 cubic ft.

If you have questions about water meters or leaks contact Water Customer Service at 356-5160 for assistance.

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