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Fall 2021



### Give the gift of water

Water is essential for good health and well-being. It is required for drinking, cooking and basic hygiene. During these times, there are many families struggling to pay their water bill. While the disconnection of water service and late fees due to non-payment continues to be suspended, many are struggling to pay their water bills. Help your neighbors in need by contributing to [WASD Cares](#).

### Water bill disconnection moratorium lifted

As South Florida and the nation continue to return to pre-COVID-19 activities and procedures, the moratorium on disconnections of water service for non-payment, as well as the application of late fees, implemented in March 2020 has been suspended as of Oct. 1. The Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department (WASD) has created a [payment arrangement](#) so customers would be able to pay their current water and sewer bill cycle while catching up on previous owed amounts.

### Practice Can the Grease this holiday season

The holidays are right around the corner, and with guests come additional food preparations. While you're prepping your food, you may not be aware of what you're disposing down the drain and what harm it may do. The Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department (WASD) and the Regulatory and Economic Resources Department (RER) would like to remind you not to pour cooking grease or oil down your kitchen drain, which can cause back up and clogs in the sewer system. [Find out what not to put down your drain](#) to avoid unnecessary backups.

### Temporary change to water chlorination method begins Nov. 8

WASD will be conducting its spring cleaning in November. From Nov. 8 to Nov. 21, the department will temporarily change the method used to [chlorinate the drinking water](#) supply at its water treatment plants. Free chlorine, instead of the standard combined chlorine (chloramine) will be used during the treatment process. Free chlorine is considered an effective method of cleansing water distribution systems. This routine procedure is regularly scheduled each year in partnership with the Florida Department of Health of Miami-Dade County and the Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources (RER). During this required two-week period, customers may notice a chlorine taste or smell in the water. This temporary condition will not cause any adverse health effects and is a necessary part of WASD's ongoing efforts to provide safe drinking water to Miami-Dade County residents.

### Struggling with your bills? Renters can apply for utility assistance from OUR Florida

During these times, there are many families struggling to pay their rental or utility bills. OUR Florida is a program overseen by the Florida Department of Children and Families that provides assistance for past due rental or utility bill balances of renters. Qualifying WASD customers who are behind on their WASD bills can apply for utility assistance from OUR Florida. Make note of this information to share with friends and family who may need assistance. Find out if you qualify and [apply online](#) today.

### Find out what to do if you have a sewer backup

Plumbing problems like backed-up sewer lines do not fix themselves. If you have a problem with your home's wastewater line, you need to repair it promptly to prevent the slow flow from completely blocking all drainage in your home. Also, flushing items down the toilet that are too large for sewer lines to handle – such as toys and sanitary napkins – can cause backups. There are simple things you can do to prevent a sewer backup. Learn [what not to flush](#).

### Mark your calendars for Imagine a Day Without Water

Many of us take water for granted, but what would a day be like without water? Imagine A Day Without Water is an annual educational campaign that is celebrated on Oct. 21. It is geared to raise awareness and educate us about the value of water. [Learn more](#) about the campaign and participate. Also, make sure to follow WASD on Facebook ([@MiamiDadeWater](#)) for fun interactive posts to celebrate the day.

### Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department will save \$300 million through technology

WASD has recently reduced total project costs for its Ocean Outfall Legislation (OOL) Program. Introducing a newer less expensive filtration technology and replacing low-speed generators with high-speed generators at the three wastewater treatment plants, will save \$300 million, increase reliability and reduce emissions. The OOL Program was created by a statewide directive to reduce nutrient discharges to the ocean and promote water [reuse alternatives that are technically and economically feasible](#).

### Approval for \$211 million received for upcoming capital improvement projects

WASD received approval for \$211 million for upcoming capital improvement projects to continue with its Capital Improvement Program. The five projects include installing a 36-inch water main, South District Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrades to increase capacity, the construction of new injection wells and monitoring wells at the treatment plants as well as throughout the department's service area. [Read more](#) about the upcoming projects and how they benefit the community and environment.

### ...Did you know?

An adult macaw requires at least 40 ml of water per day, while camels can drink up to 53 gallons of water in just three minutes!

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