



What's on Tap

Vision of Tomorrow | Action Today

18631 SE 300th Place, Covington WA 98042 * 253-631-0565 * Fax: 253-630-4825
CovingtonWater.com General Manager: Thomas Keown

2093809

Reservoir Cleaning in 2017

Each year the Operations team at Covington Water District (CWD) performs reservoir cleaning, both internally and externally. This program ensures that the paint on the exterior is looking pristine and allows for inspection of the paint to document any possible points of delamination or failure.

Interior cleaning serves a couple of different purposes. First is the coating, the interior of reservoirs is coated with a specially rated material safe for drinking water and the draining of the reservoir allows for a thorough inspection of the coating.

The second is the water quality element, after time reservoirs can accumulate sedimentation. After draining the reservoir staff is able to wash down the walls and floors

and remove any sedimentation that had accumulated.

In 2017, three different reservoirs were cleaned by CWD Operations staff, three exterior and one interior. CWD has shared assets with its neighbor Cedar River Water & Sewer District that includes a 4 MG reservoir that is identified as Tank 5. This tank is one of two reservoirs in the District's 770 pressure zone. Tank 5 had not had a thorough interior cleaning and inspection since 2010. Upon draining and initial inspection, CWD Operations staff noted that overall sedimentation deposits were at moderate to low concentrations, however, coating damage in various areas of the reservoir was discovered.

In an effort to extend the life of the asset and preserve the integrity of the coating CWD engineers recommended that the areas of concern be repaired using a two part epoxy coating system. The protective coating repairs were applied using controlled humidity and temperature to ensure the coating properly adhered to the surface, and

thus extending the life of the asset. This task was possible due to the highly trained staff within the Operations department at Covington Water District, in conjunction with the coatings experts from our Engineering department.

One of the unintended benefits resulting from this project was the data acquired which enabled management to make an informed adjustment to its maintenance schedule, adjusting from 5 year interval for interior cleaning and extending it to 10 years. This adjustment is part of a new maintenance approach referred to as RCM (Reliability Centered Maintenance), resulting in cost savings for our stakeholders, and labor allocation for the Operations department. For questions on reservoir cleaning or other Operations programs please contact: Dan Sleeth, Operations Manager, 253.867.0950.

Great team effort CWD, and a job well done!



Backflow Prevention: Protecting Water, Protecting Yourself

Backflow tests due before July 31st.

The District requires all cross-connections to be protected by customer installed backflow prevention assemblies and be tested on an annual basis before July 31st of each year. These tests can be completed and submitted to the district any time after January, you do not need to wait until July to complete this test. Many testers are very busy the closer you get to the due date, we encourage you to schedule your test early to allow the test to be completed prior to the due date to avoid any fines.

Why it's critical to test these devices.

For potable water, life is a series of one-way streets. Safe drinking water depends on all "traffic" within a water system to move from source to use. Normally, fresh drinking water flows one way. It isn't supposed to turn around and travel in the other direction.

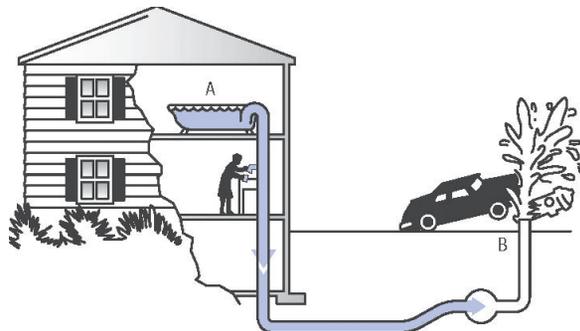
In a perfect world, the flow of water would always follow the rules. But in reality, there are several situations that can cause backflow, such as a broken water main pipe. Backflow is an accidental and unwanted reversal in the flow of water within a piping system. When this happens, any contaminants within the piping system can flow back into the source of fresh water, which could mix with drinking water and potentially contaminate the water supply.

Consider this example: A home irrigation system with below ground sprinklers is running as usual when a neighborhood water main is damaged during road construction. Suddenly, the pressure that keeps potable water flowing into the system is gone and the water flow changes directions. Water from the irrigation system flows backward taking with it any pesticides, fertilizer, or animal waste that it may have come in contact with. This contaminated water can then mix with the potable water supply potentially making the homeowner and his neighbors sick.

The danger of this kind of contamination exists wherever there is a "cross-connection" or link between potable and non-potable water. This is where backflow prevention comes in. Appropriate backflow prevention devices keep non-potable water from flowing backward toward the potable water supply.

Visit our website for more information.

For more information about cross-connections and backflow prevention assemblies, please see the District's website at covingtonwater.com or contact the District's Cross-Connection Control Specialist at 253-867-0944.



Covington Water District & Seattle University Partner Up for Safe Water

Covington Water District (District) and Seattle University's Project Center (SU) are partnering to conduct a "real world" utility project assignment with Seattle University's Civil & Environmental Engineering Department students along with guidance from a District consultant. The District views this partnership with SU's engineering students as a "win-win" for all involved.

The District initiated the Sugarloaf Well Corrosion Control Facility Preliminary Design Project in response to changing pH at the satellite system's Well #3. This District well is the primary source for an individual satellite system that provides potable water to a group of single family homes. Recent development, as well as recent drought conditions, has increased demands on the well supply to cause demands to nearly double as compared to previous years.

The District's water quality studies from 2014 to 2017 show that the pH of the water pumped from Well #3 dropped from 7.7 to 6.9. The lower pH is starting to result in corrosion at locations the District monitors within this satellite system are showing service lines and home plumbing having increasing levels of dissolved copper within them. Lead levels do not exceed the Washington State Department of Health action levels at this time.

The SU's student team has been tasked to work with a District consultant to review historical data, carry out a feasibility analysis to determine the preferred solution to mitigate low pH and the potential for elevated copper concentrations, and produce a 30% preliminary design for implementing the preferred method. The project deliverables will be completed by spring 2018 and will be presented by the students prior to graduation.

Special Events/Dates

The District will be closed in observance of the following holidays:

- Monday, May 28th for Memorial Day
- Wednesday, July 4th for Independence Day

Covington Water District Works Hard to Provide Benefit Back to Our Community

Covington Water District (CWD) plays a vital role in our community. How long would you be able to go without water? We work hard around the clock to ensure that when you turn on the tap, clean, quality and drinkable water gets to you... every time. Most people don't realize how the water is treated, or what happens to the water before it gets to their homes or businesses. Our goal is to get out there and tell our story. Below are a few ways we are engaging with the community and working towards continuous improvement for the water industry as a whole.



Community Engagement

During the spring, many of the K-12 schools in CWD's area hold STEM/STEAM events. CWD staff participated in two. CWD's facility operators, Dale Benson and Tom Huizenga took part at the March 1st Sawyer Woods Elementary School's 2nd Annual STEAM Event and March 8th Martin Sortun Elementary School's STEM Expo. STEAM stands for science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics. Armed with a fire hydrant, cut-out backflow assemblies, and giveaways, they spent a few hours with the students and families talking about water, our role in the community and why water is important to our families, community and economic sustainability for the region.



CWD joined about 20+ local services, businesses and agencies in getting to know the Covington residents better through participation at the Covington Community Expo on March 21st, 2018 at Affinity of Covington. The event was free to the community and included raffles, prizes, informational sessions and presentations from various businesses.

Upcoming Community Events

CWD will be participating in its third year in The Play Unplugged Program. The program officially starts Memorial Day weekend and goes on until Labor Day weekend (May 26th - September 3rd, 2018). During this time, children will be able to complete the activities for any one of Covington's Brag Badges to earn a badge.



Play Unplugged is all about encouraging kids to put down their electronics and get out and play. This is done by creating a symbiotic relationship between kids, parents and the local community. With local businesses and agencies sponsoring brag badges, families get to learn more about the businesses in town, and at the same time, businesses get exposure to their community members! To find out more about the program, visit: <https://www.weplayunplugged.com/pages/what-is-play-unplugged>.