Pay your annual invoice online by March 1.

Need a New Year’s resolution you can keep? Pay your 2019 Group B annual permit invoice by March 1 to avoid late fees. After March 1, we will apply a 25% late fee to any unpaid balance. After April 1, any amount unpaid will get an additional 25% late fee. The annual permit fee is $90 when paid on time. However, that fee becomes $112.50 if not paid by March 1, and $135 if not paid by April 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group B Water Systems Annual Permit Invoices</th>
<th>Invoices Mailed</th>
<th>Due</th>
<th>25% Late Fee</th>
<th>Additional 25% Late Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 1, 2019</td>
<td>March 1, 2019</td>
<td>March 2, 2019</td>
<td>April 1, 2019</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We offer three convenient ways to pay.

1. Pay online with a Visa or MasterCard at [https://eco.tpchd.org/#/onlinepayments](https://eco.tpchd.org/#/onlinepayments). You will need the account ID and invoice number. Both are printed on the top of your invoice.

2. Mail in your check with the bottom portion of the invoice. To avoid a late fee, be sure to mail your payment before the March 1 due date, and include your invoice stub so we apply your payment to the correct account.

3. In person at our office with cash, check, Visa or MasterCard.

Questions about your invoice?
Contact Chris Gutierrez at (253) 798-2856.

Keep your water system safe and secure.

We are all concerned about keeping our drinking water supply clean. But have you thought about your water system's security? A recent news story about a break in at a large water system is a good reminder.

“North Bend water tower broken into—water potentially contaminated”—Kiro news.

How you can improve your water supply’s security:

- Lock the door to your well or pumphouse.
- Install motion lights at your pumphouse.
- If your well is outside, make sure it is fenced in or install a secure lockable cover.
- Talk to your neighbors. Provide contact names and phone numbers and ask them to report any suspicious activity they see around the well or pumphouse.
- Inspect your water system often so if an incident happens you can take necessary action.
We can help you stay organized.

Keep all your water system information in one spot.

The Drinking Water Program developed a guidance notebook to help you collect and organize information about your water system’s operation. We include sections on:

- Emergency preparedness.
- Water system assessment and inventory.
- Water quality testing.
- Other valuable documents.

It’s free!

Contact Michelle at mharris@tpchd.org or (253) 798-7683.
We will include a tote bag while supplies last!

Why do we test for nitrates?

Exposure to high nitrates in drinking water can be a serious health risk to babies and people with weak immune systems. Nitrates reduce the ability of red blood cells to carry oxygen. To protect public health, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) set the Maximum Contaminant Level for drinking water at 10 ppm to prevent Blue Baby Syndrome (methemoglobinemia) in infants.

You are required to test for nitrates once every three years, unless levels reach 5.0 ppm. If levels are above 5.0 ppm, you need to test every year.

Because of fertilizers and feedlot runoff, the EPA recognizes, “nitrate contamination of drinking water is of special concern in agricultural areas.”

Nitrate levels are one indicator of your aquifers’ integrity.

The Washington State Department of Ecology maintains a tool to help visualize when nitrate levels reach a problem.

See if there are any wells of concern in your area.

Visit https://ecology.wa.gov/Water-Shorelines/Water-quality/Groundwater/Nitrate-data-assessment

If your nitrate levels are on the rise, contact us to help develop a plan.

DRINKING WATER STAFF

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Michelle Harris</td>
<td>(253) 798-7683</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelly Racke</td>
<td>(253) 798-4764</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joshua Hird</td>
<td>(253) 798-4472</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Billing/account questions
(253) 798-2856