

Water quality is in the news

Princeton Public Utilities has an 105-year history of providing safe water for our customers to drink and use.



Water quality in Flint, Michigan, has recently been a hot topic. One thing is clear from this situation: When infrastructure is allowed to deteriorate, results can be disastrous.

We would like to share some pertinent facts regarding our water system.

- Princeton Public Utilities meets all state and federal drinking water health standards.
- Your utility collects and tests water samples from inside 50 homes every three years to comply with the Safe Drinking Water Act.
- Our current water supply and treatment system provides a high quality, long-term source of supply for our community.

Thoughts on our water supply given Michigan water crisis

It may be some time before all the facts surrounding the Flint, Michigan water quality crisis are understood. However, there are a few lessons that seem apparent. First, when

a community changes water sources or water treatment, unintended consequences can occur. Our water system operators are alert to these potential issues.

Affordability has also become a significant issue as we rebuild aging water infrastructure. The American Water Works Association in 2012 conducted a study that concluded repairing and expanding drinking water infrastructure in the United States will cost more than \$1 trillion over 25 years. That expense is largely borne by water customers.

It appears lead service lines contributed to the problems in Flint. The most likely sources of lead in household water are lead pipes, lead solder, or brass fixtures in your plumbing. Lead water services were generally installed before 1930, though lead solder was widely used in plumbing through 1986.



The Minnesota Department of Health has reported no lead in municipal water systems.

The federal Safe Drinking Water Act requires cities to hold lead concentrations below 15 parts per billion. We test regularly for lead and other contaminants and annually publish a safe drinking water report. Our Water Quality Report, as required by the Minnesota Department of Health, is available at our office, 907 1st Street.

The Connector

Princeton Public Utilities

Your power will be going out — Please call us when it does

Valued Customers,

During the month of April, we at the Public Utilities will be performing maintenance in our substations.

We will be opening the circuit breakers and removing them from their cubical to clean, lubricate, test the electric controls, and verify the circuit breakers are capable of continued service.

The process will require that power will be removed from each feeder for a short period of time. **During the month of April, each feeder will be shut down to perform this maintenance. We request that when your home or business loses power, to please call the Public Utilities to let us know.** at 763.389.2252

With this information we will be able to update our system diagrams to allow us to serve you more efficiently.

Princeton Public Utilities now offers variety of online services

We are excited to announce customers can now view their bills online as well as make payments!

It's EASY and SECURE!



Go to www.princetonutilities.com and start by clicking: ***PAY HERE***

Click on: Sign Up Now – Create an Account. You will be prompted to enter your information as it appears on your utility bill and then enter a password. Once you have done this you can log onto your information anytime from home or your mobile device and you can:

- ✓ **View your current bill just as the one mailed**
- ✓ **View your previous bills**
- ✓ **Make a payment now or schedule future payments**
- ✓ **Sign up for paperless billing and receive your bill by email**

You can also find ways to Save Energy!

- ✓ **View your household usage this year vs. previous year**
- ✓ **View your household usage in comparison to other utility customers**

- ✓ **Click on Home Energy Analysis: Check the energy usage in your home and see how much you are spending and how you can save**
- ✓ **Click on Appliance Calculator and see how much that appliance is costing you at current rate**
- ✓ **Receive Energy Saving Tips**

Most everyone wants to save money by improving the energy use of their homes, but many don't know where to start or what improvements will have the most impact. This information is to help you better understand how you are using energy and then give you the tools and advice to help you save money.

Spring Hydrant Flushing

We will again be conducting the spring water distribution system flushing beginning in April. This is a routine maintenance of the water system, which helps ensure water quality and a well-functioning system, and is done in the spring and fall.

If you encounter discolored water during this period you can run the cold unsoftened tap for a few minutes to clear it up. The discoloration is not harmful to humans or animals. If you have any questions or concerns please call our office at 763-389-2252.



Call 8-1-1 before you dig

Building a deck? Planting a tree? Installing a mailbox?

8-1-1 is the number you should call, at least two days before you begin any digging project. 811 was created to help protect you from unintentionally hitting underground utility lines while working on digging projects.



People digging often make risky assumptions about whether or not they should get their utility lines marked due to concerns about project delays, costs, and previous calls about other projects. These assumptions can be life-threatening.

Every digging job requires a call—even small projects like planting trees or shrubs. If you hit an underground utility line while digging, you can harm yourself or those around you, disrupt service to an entire neighborhood, and potentially be responsible for fines and repair costs.

Don't assume you know what's below. Protect yourself and those around you—call 811 every time. This is a service provided by the various utilities and there is no charge to you.