With summer around the corner, maintain cooling equipment now

Don't wait until the summer heat is unbearable to make sure the air conditioner is working properly.

An air conditioner's filters, coils, and fins require regular maintenance for the unit to function effectively and efficiently throughout its years of service.

The most important maintenance task that will ensure the efficiency of your air conditioner is to routinely replace or clean its filters. Keeping the filter clean can lower your air conditioner's energy consumption by 5 to 15 percent.

We offer rebates for air conditioner tune-ups

Our Central Air Conditioner Tune-up rebate will rebate up to $60.00 (once every 2 years) to our customers when they have their central air conditioner tuned up by a licensed and insured heating/cooling contractor. Applications must be filled out and signed by the Air Conditioning Technician, so obtain your application before the tune-up is performed by going to our website at www.waterandlight.info or come into our office at 600 Demers Ave to pick up your application.

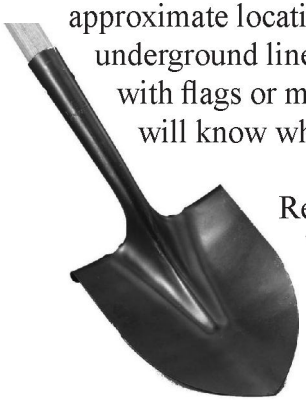
Call 8-1-1 before you dig

Do your spring projects include digging, planting a tree, installing a new mail box or bringing in a backhoe for trench work?

Before digging, call the underground utility locator service to mark the location of underground utilities so that accidental contact, damage and injuries can be avoided. Underground utilities, such as buried gas, water and electric lines, can be a shovel thrust away from turning a spring project into a disaster.

To find out where utility lines run on your property, call 8-1-1, the national "Call Before You Dig" phone number. Call at least 72 hours before engaging in any type of digging or excavation work. Your call will be routed to a local "one call" center. Tell the operator where you're planning to dig and what type of work you will be doing, and local utilities, including East Grand Forks Water & Light, will be notified.

A locator will arrive to mark the approximate location of any underground lines, pipes and cables with flags or marking paint so you will know what's below.



Remember to call 8-1-1 before you dig. It's free, it's easy and it's the law!

Spring 2013

The Connector

East Grand Forks Water & Light

Consider utilities when planting

Trees around your home provide summer shade to lower cooling costs and keep out cold winter winds. Consider the following when planting or trimming a tree:

• Plant trees away from underground utilities to prevent roots from interfering with pipes, cables and wires. Future repairs to these facilities could damage the health and beauty of nearby plants and trees.

• Make sure not to plant trees directly under or within at least 25 feet of power lines for short trees, and at least 40 feet away for medium-size trees. Large trees should be planted even farther from overhead lines.

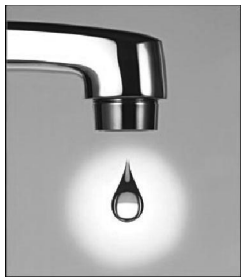
• Always look for nearby power lines before you cut down a tree or trim branches. If a tree falls into a power line, contact us right away, at 773-1163.

• Keep areas around your electric meters, transformers or other electrical equipment free of vegetation that could limit utility service access.

Remember these facts when considering your drinking water

There's so much to know about our H2O! Where does it come from and how does it get into our homes? How is it cleaned before we drink it? Which laws protect it?

"We all agree that water is an essential element in our daily lives, but many of us can't say for certain where our tap water comes from," says Water Plant Superintendent Randy Rapacz. "Drinking Water Week, May 5-11, is a great opportunity to find out more information about the source and quality of your drinking water.



East Grand Forks' drinking water is pumped from the Red Lake River and treated in our Water Treatment Plant and tested for quality before being pumped to the water towers and then to the homes and businesses in East Grand Forks.

The Environmental Protection Agency protects drinking water quality through the administration of the Safe Drinking Water Act. Community water systems are required to monitor their drinking water multiple times per day. They are also required to test for close to 100 contaminants, and report any violations that may have occurred. Water service is a convenience that we too often take for granted until an issue like a water main break. That is why the Water and Light Department has an ongoing capital improvement plan to replace a section of ageing water lines throughout the city each year so that our residents can expect safe reliable water service now and in the future.

In conjunction with Drinking Water Week, the Water and Light Department staff will become more involved in the Heritage Foundation Water Festival and the education of our local elementary students on the water cycle. We will provide information on how the water in our community is treated and delivered to our customers along with tips on water conservation.

So remember, there is more to the water you drink than meets the eye. Employees work diligently to make sure that the water that comes out of your faucet meets stringent standards and TASTES GREAT!

When it comes to water use, 'less' really can be 'more'

When it comes to wise use of water, the saying "Less is More" really can be true. Consider these easy, efficient water use ideas:

• Don't leave the sink running while you brush your teeth.

• Repair dripping faucets and leaky toilets.
• Run only full loads in your dish and clothes washers.

• Use landscapes with native or drought-resistant plant which require less water.

• Install water-efficient appliances in your home. Look for the EPA WaterSense label.

• Don't over-water your lawn, and water early in the morning or at night to avoid excess evaporation.

• When the driveway or sidewalk needs cleaning, consider a broom instead of a hose.

• Help preserve the quality of the available water supply by limiting use of pesticides and fertilizers, avoiding flushing medications down the toilet, and properly disposing of hazardous chemicals.

• Place rain barrels beneath your downspouts. The water can be used for outdoor plants and trees. Make sure your rain barrels are fully enclosed by covering them with outdoor mesh or purchase new ones.

Help protect the Earth's most precious resource: water.