

## Save on Your Summer Utility Bills

With warmer temperatures just around the corner, air conditioners will soon be kicking on in area homes and businesses. Check out these tips to identify strategies to help you reduce your energy use and save money during the months ahead.

- **Turn your thermostat up.** Set your thermostat to as warm as is comfortable when you are home and awake, and turn it up a few degrees when you are asleep or out of the house. Also consider installing a low-cost programmable thermostat.
- **Use ceiling and room fans** to create air movement and cool a room.
- **Close blinds** when not at home to keep the sun from warming your house.
- **Turn off lights when exiting a room.** Even consider relying on natural light alone during the day.
- **Turn off and unplug electronic devices and chargers** when not in use. Most electronic devices use electricity even when they are switched off.
- **Avoid running appliances during peak hours (3-6 p.m. on non-holiday weekdays)** when possible, or any time an electricity emergency is declared.
- **Do laundry efficiently.** Only run full loads and use cold water in the washing machine.
- **Line-dry clothes.** Dryers are often the biggest energy users in homes after refrigerators. If it is necessary to use the clothes dryer, only run full loads, use the moisture-sensing setting if available, and always clean the lint trap after each use.
- **Turn off the heated dry cycle on your dishwasher** and air dry dishes instead.
- **Shut doors and vents of unoccupied rooms** to lighten the load on your air conditioning unit.
- **Install Compact Fluorescent Light bulbs (CFLs) and Light-Emitting Diodes (LEDs)** to replace incandescent light bulbs. CFLs use 75% less electricity to produce the same amount of light as incandescent bulbs and last approximately ten times longer.
- **Find and seal air leaks.** Weather-strip, seal, and/or caulk leaky doors and windows, and gaps around chimneys. Also install foam gaskets behind outlet covers.
- **Maintain your heating and cooling system(s).** Replace air conditioning filters once a month, and schedule service for your heating and cooling system(s) to find out what maintenance is required to keep the system(s) operating efficiently.



## **The City of Hamilton Gas and Water Distribution Department Fire Hydrant Flushing 2018 Schedule**

Fire hydrants throughout the city are flushed and serviced annually. This year, the process will begin on April 23rd, and will continue through the end of September. We will be flushing neighborhood by neighborhood; a press release will be sent out as we change areas.

Hydrant flushing clears the natural buildup of sediment from water mains and extends infrastructure life. Through this process, we are able to verify that hydrants are properly functioning in the event of an emergency and to identify any hydrants that require service or replacement.

We ask that residents refrain from washing laundry between the hours of 8 A.M. and 2 P.M. Monday-Friday when we are in your area. Hydrant Flushing creates sediment in the lines to break loose, which can lead to brown water. This water is still safe, but it is recommended that residents do not drink discolored water. Brown water can take up to a week to make it into a home. If you notice discoloration, run the water in your home for 5 to 10 minutes or until it becomes clear. If residents experience discolored water during this process or have any questions or concerns, they are encouraged to call 513-785- 7550 and select option 4 for the gas and water department.

The first area will encompass east of Eaton Road to the river and from the railroad/2-mile creek north. The downtown area and the region of the city bounded by Tylersville Road, Hamilton-Mason Road, and Bypass Route 4 will be serviced on Saturdays only. All other neighborhoods will be serviced between the hours of 8 A.M. and 3 P.M. on weekdays. Weather and emergency response activity makes it difficult to predict when flushing will occur in each neighborhood.

During this time, we will be posting in our weekly newsletter which areas are expected to be served during the following week. Residents can sign up to receive this and other newsletters by selecting “**Sign up for Newsletters**”; at [Hamilton-City.org](http://Hamilton-City.org).

### **Summer Sewer Credit**

For all actual meter readings during the months of May, June, July, August, and September, the sewer charges for water used in excess of your 150% cap (based on winter water average from October to March) will not be billed. So if you plan on filling a pool or using a lot of water this summer, the earliest you can do that and still get your summer sewer credit is May 1st. If you have any questions, feel free to call Customer Service at 513-785- 7100.