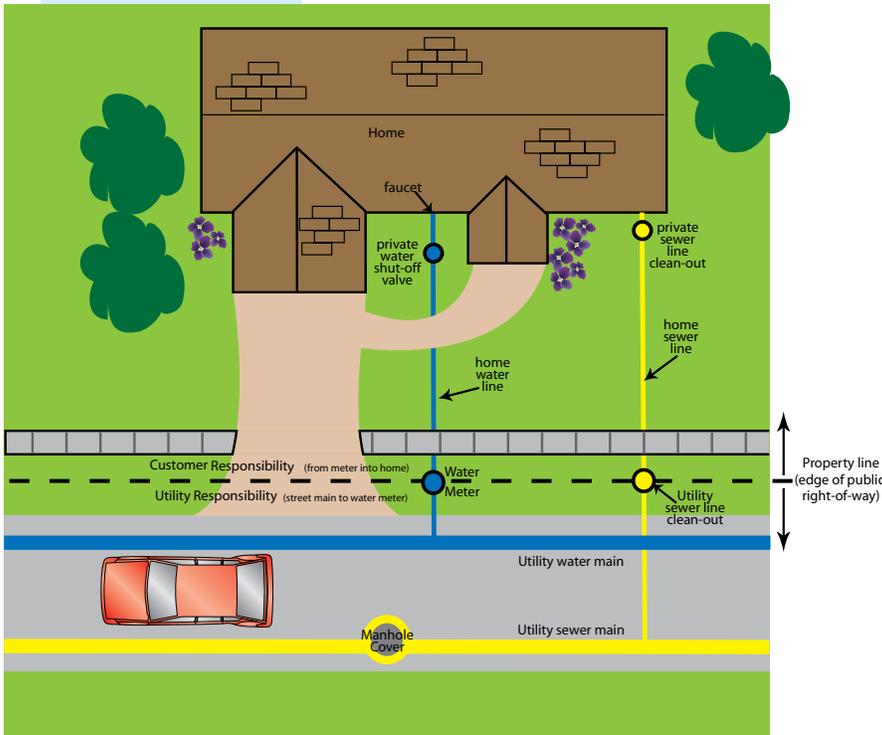


How To Turn Your Water Off!

Before you evacuate, always turn your water off to prevent damage should a line inside your home rupture. This is also good to know incase you have frozen pipes in the winter and experience a broken line. If Charleston Water System announces that the water has been contaminated and is not safe to drink, you should also turn your water off until the water is safe again.

The shut off valve to your home is located on the outside of the house. If you draw an imaginary line between the outside front faucet and your meter box at the street, the shut off valve is usually located about 2 feet from the house on this line. It will be about 18 inches underground. It may have a box or cover over it, or it may be completely buried.

The diagram illustrates an example of where the shut off valve would typically be located along the blue water line.



Water Security

After the 2001 terrorist attacks, utilities all over the country reviewed emergency plans and conducted vulnerability assessments to improve monitoring and security. You can help keep the water safe. Water storage tanks, fire hydrants, and other utility facilities are located throughout the community. Keep an eye out for any suspicious activity around these locations. If you see something unusual, contact the local police department and Charleston Water System immediately (843) 724-6800.

How to Purify Water

Boiling: boil vigorously for 3 to 5 minutes.

Purification Tablets: purchase from a drug store or camping supply and follow directions.



Hypochlorite Bleach: Liquid household bleach (unscented) can be used to disinfect water for drinking. The bleach must contain hypochlorite, preferable 5.25%. Use 8 drops of bleach per gallon of water and allow to stand for 30 minutes before using. Do not use granular bleach—it is poisonous.

Tincture of Iodine: same as bleach above.

Sediment: to remove sediment and particles, filter the water through a coffee filter, paper towels, or several layers of clean cloth.