

# DPU Scoop

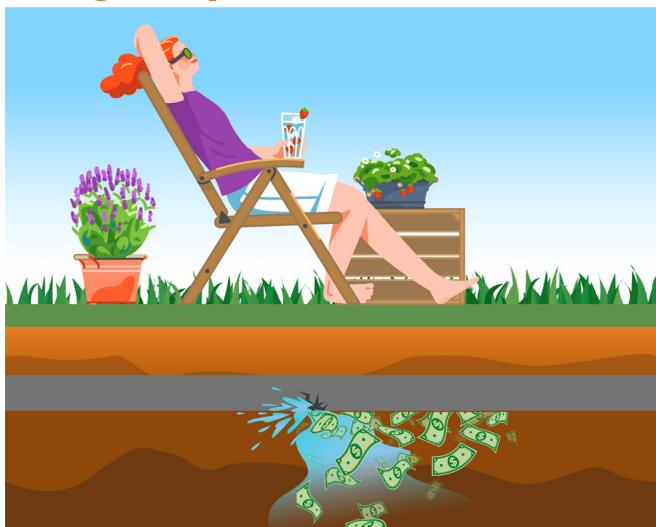


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CONSERVATION

## Sign up for leak alerts to save water and money



Do you have an in-ground irrigation system? Are you out of town for extended periods of time?

Don't let an undetected leak catch you by surprise. Whether it's a silently leaking toilet or an unseen, broken irrigation system, signing up for Automated Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Leak Alerts can help you prevent unexpected spikes in your water bills.

Water use in Los Alamos County doubles during the outdoor growing season and tiered water rates are in effect from May through September. Find tiered water rate info at [ladpu.com/rates](http://ladpu.com/rates). Leak alerts can be customized to help you avoid unintentional water use and high water bills.

Out of town when your leak alert is triggered? Call the Customer Care Center for assistance. (505) 662-8333

### How do I sign up for leak alerts?

1. Sign up or log in to the AMI Self Service Portal at [ladpu.com/mymeters](http://ladpu.com/mymeters).
2. On the dashboard screen, select the water service from the "Customer" drop down menu.
3. Once in the water service, navigate to the "Settings" from the menu on the left.
4. Select "Usage Alerts" and set up desired alerts.
5. Usage alerts can be activated when a billing cycle usage is exceeded, when a set daily or multi-day usage is exceeded, or when a requested usage alert is triggered during a set period ("Vacation Alerts").

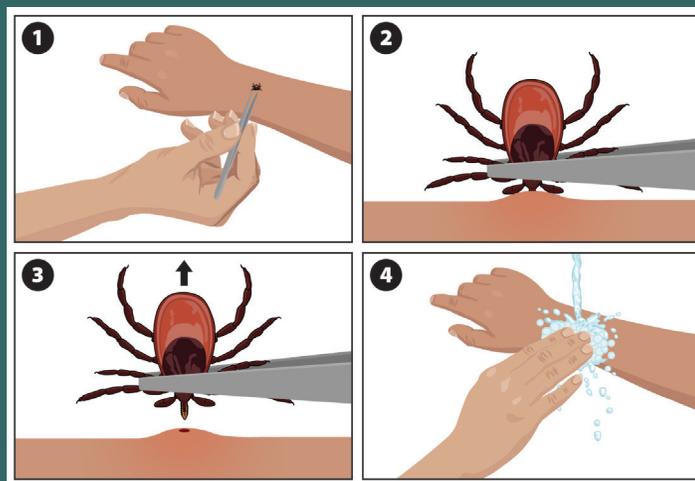
*\*\*Note, AMI meters record usage in increments of 100 gallons. Any set alert must be more than 100 gallons.*

## I've been bitten by a tick...Now what?

If you find a tick attached to your skin, remove it as soon as possible. Do not wait to go to a healthcare provider to remove it. Delaying tick removal by seeking help from a healthcare provider could increase your risk of contracting a disease.

### Follow these steps to remove a tick:

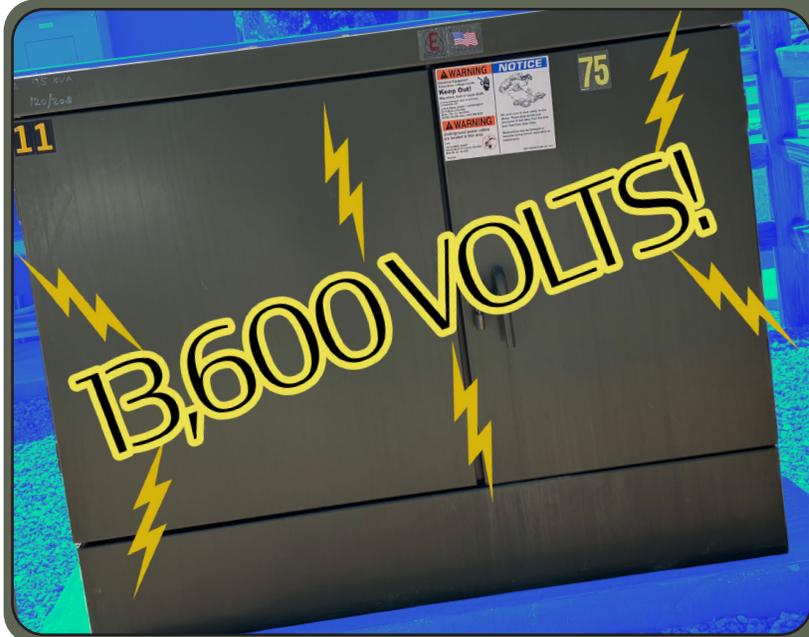
- Using clean tweezers, or your finger tips if none are available, grasp the tick as close to the skin's surface as possible to avoid squeezing the tick's body.
- Pull the tick away from the skin with steady, even pressure. Don't twist or jerk the tick. It can cause the tick's mouthparts to break off and remain in the skin. If this happens, though, your body will naturally push the mouthparts out over time as your skin heals.
- Dispose of the live tick in one of the following ways: place it in a sealed container; wrap it tightly in tape; flush it down



the toilet; or put it in alcohol. Don't crush the tick with your fingers.

- After removing the tick, clean the bite area and your hands with soap and water, rubbing alcohol, or hand sanitizer.
- If you find a tick attached to you, there may be other ticks on your body. Do a careful tick check to look for other ticks and promptly remove them.

To learn more about living with wildlife on the Pajarito Plateau, visit the County website at [www.lacnm.com/wildlife](http://www.lacnm.com/wildlife).



## KEEP THE SPACE AROUND TRANSFORMER BOXES CLEAR!

- Avoid planting and building near boxes on your property.
- Roots from trees and shrubs can grow around underground power lines posing a danger to you and to electric crews
- Electric crews need safe access to transformer equipment

Learn more at [ladpu.com/boxes](https://ladpu.com/boxes)

**CLEAR SPACE = SAFE SPACE**

## Dear DPU Abbey: Is it Flushable or Not?!

Dear DPU Abbey,

What is the deal with “flushable wipes”? I am so confused. I went to PEEC’s Earth Day and played a really fun game at your booth, but got the flushable wipes question wrong. Why would they be labeled “flushable” if they’re not??

-Flushing Confused

Dear Flushing Confused,

While “flushable” wipes are physically able to be flushed, they should NOT be flushed down the toilet or other drain that leads to the sewer system (or a septic system). Interestingly, there is a group—the International Waste Service Flushability Group—that ensures a product labeled as “flushable” will not impact drain lines.



Any wipe, “flushable” or not, will contribute to clogs when it comes against tree roots, fats and grease, or other debris in the sewer system. This could be in the distribution lines —the smaller lines connecting to individual customers—or in sewer mains. Wipes can also bind around pumps, causing them to seize up. The DPU wastewater collection system has 25 lift stations with these pumps and it can range from \$7,000-\$14,000 to take these pumps apart to unbind or completely replace sheared shafts.

If you enjoy the feel from wipes, please dispose of them in your bathroom trashcan. Alternatively, bidets are becoming increasingly popular in the United States. There are many options for toilet seat upgrades as opposed to replacing your entire commode.

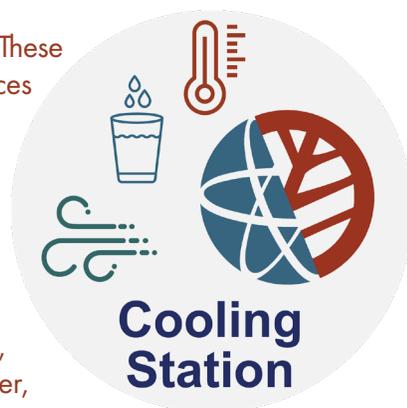
Signed,  
DPU Abbey

## Stay Cool Inside and Out

“Extreme heat” is a period of high heat and humidity with temperatures above 90 degrees for at least two days. Mitigating the impacts of extreme heat can be challenging for those without air conditioning, but even those with cooled air need to make sure their system isn’t being overworked.

### Practical measures to help you beat the heat

- Close windows and window treatments during daytime.
- Use fans strategically to move air from cooler areas to warmer areas. Put a fan in an open window to blow in cooler night air.
- Set ceiling fans to rotate counterclockwise in the summer.
- If you use room fans with air conditioning, you can set AC 4 degrees warmer without impacting comfort.
- Run your dryer at night or hang your clothes outside to dry.
- Wear loose, lightweight, light-colored clothing.
- Take cool showers and baths.
- Park in shady places.
- Visit a Cooling Station! These are air conditioned places where you can cool off and drink water to get relief from the heat without pressure to buy. In Los Alamos County: County-owned public buildings, White Rock Visitor Center, Nature Center, Senior Centers, Los Alamos Co-op Market, Smiths, Natural Grocers, American Legion Post 90 and Bathtub Row Brewing Co-op.
- Seal air leaks in your home.
- Install cellular shades, window films, or blackout curtains for added thermal insulation.
- Set your heat pump at a constant temperature to avoid ramping up and overstressing the unit.
- Insulate, insulate, insulate!



## FIND DPU ONLINE!

Connect through our Linktree at <https://ladpu.com/Links>



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