

# GIMMICKS & GADGETS CONTEST

## Getting started

If you have ever solved a problem for your utility by inventing some sort of tool or new method for getting a job done more quickly, better, or for less cost to the utility, then you have created a gimmick or gadget. That was the hard part of the process. The next step is to share the idea with your peers in the water industry—and possibly win one of the prizes awarded to the top three entrants!

Submit a brief description of your clever idea, along with photos or illustrations, to Dawn Keyler at [dawn.keyler@inawwa.org](mailto:dawn.keyler@inawwa.org) by **July 31**. Contestants will present their gimmick or gadget at the fall AWWA meeting. Prizes will be awarded at the meeting.



Gimmicks & Gadgets entries are judged on the basis of originality, simplicity, use, and application to the water industry. A successful entry will be a novel and relatively simple mechanical device or procedure. It will be designed to provide a more efficient, safe, or simplified way to perform a routine task or function in the maintenance, operation, or construction of a water utility system.

## Entry outline

Use this outline to help you get organized and tell your story.

Begin with your name, title or position, affiliation or organization, mailing address, phone number, and e-mail address. If you're submitting the idea for another person, please provide the name of the inventor.

1. Next, give the gadget or procedure a name (for example, the lid-lifter, meter box lock-out and so forth); any title that briefly describes what the gadget or procedure does will do. If it's not easy to describe the idea in a couple of words, then describe it as well as you can in a sentence.
2. Describe why the gimmick or gadget was needed. Include the problems that were experienced by the utility before the device was used or the procedure was implemented.
3. List the equipment and supplies needed to make the gadget. This list should include the exact dimensions, sizes and quantities that are needed to build the device. If possible, include a total price of the supplies and the total amount of time it takes to build the device.
4. The easiest way to explain how to build the device is to use a simple step-by-step approach. Begin with the first step you took to construct it. Be careful not to skip any steps. To reproduce the invention in their own workplace, readers need to know all the construction details.
5. Finish by describing what was achieved by using the device. How much money and time has the device saved? List any other benefits that have resulted from its use, such as improved operator skills or record keeping, safer working conditions, increased job pride or streamlined office procedures.

**Good Luck and Happy Inventing**



American Water Works Association