

El Toro Water District

“Serving the Public - Respecting the Environment”

WaterViews



The Board of Directors and Staff want to thank you for the opportunity to serve you and wish you the Season’s Best.

.....
PLEASE USE CAUTION!

The holidays are here and El Toro Water District crews still have to do their jobs, sometimes in the middle of street. Please use caution when you see our service vehicles, road construction lights, and traffic cones. Together we can have a safe holiday season.

When Disaster Strikes, Will You Be Ready?

*How well you and your family survive a disaster often depends upon how well you are prepared. The first 72 hours after a major earthquake or other disaster are critical. Public safety services will be overwhelmed. You should be prepared to be self-sufficient for at **LEAST 3 DAYS** following a disaster. Should the water supplied to your home or business be shut off or become unsafe to use during a disaster, we suggest the following measures.*

Preventing Contamination

Immediately after a major natural disaster, prevent contamination to your home water supply by shutting off your house valve. Do not drink, bathe in, or wash anything with tap water until advised it's safe to do so. What you can do now...

- Locate your house water valve and water heater. Mark with fluorescent paint or tape so they can be found in the dark.
- Learn how to operate shut-off valves to water-lines, water heater, and how to remove any covers. Have pipe or crescent wrenches available.

Stored Water

A supply of stored water may be your most important survival item. To keep drinking water safe from contamination, store water in clean, non-corrosive, tightly covered containers or purchase commercially bottled water. The bottles should be clearly labeled and dated, and the water changed every six months.

- Store one gallon of water per person per day. Children, nursing mothers, the elderly and ill people will need more.

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- Keep at least a three-day supply of water per person (two quarts for drinking, two quarts for each person in your household for food preparation/sanitation).
- Keep extra water for pets.

Other Sources of Water

- Emergency water may be obtained from your water heater:
 - 1) turn off the gas/electric supply and let the tank cool;
 - 2) close inlet water valve (house valve);
 - 3) open any hot water faucet or disconnect the hot water line at the top of the tank; and
 - 4) drain water into a container by opening the faucet at the bottom of the heater.
- Toilet tank water (not the bowl) can be used, as long as disinfectant or coloring has not been used in the tank.
- Do not use pool or spa water as a source of drinking water. Use this water for bathing or for flushing toilets. In the event of a sewerline break, do not use toilets, sinks or showers.

How to Purify Water for Drinking

If water is polluted, always strain water through coffee filters, paper towels, clean cloth to remove any sediment or floating matter.

BOIL

- Boil water vigorously for 5 minutes.

CHLORINE

If boiling is not practical, common household bleach contains a chlorine compound that will disinfect water. If the procedure is not listed on the label, follow the guideline below:

- Add liquid chlorine household bleach to water.
- If you have 1% chlorine, add 40 drops per gallon.
- If you have 4 - 6% chlorine, add 8 drops per gallon.
- If you have 7 - 10% chlorine, add 4 drops per gallon.
- If water is cloudy, colored or cold, double the chlorine dosages.
- The treated water should be mixed thoroughly and allowed to stand for 30 minutes.
- The water should have a chlorine odor; if not, repeat the dosage and allow the water to stand for 15 minutes.

Do not use granular or scented forms of household bleach; they are poisonous.

For more information on emergency preparedness, visit the Office of Emergency Services at www.oes.ca.gov or the American Red Cross at www.redcross.org.

UPDATING INFORMATION TO SERVE YOU BETTER

In the case of an emergency, El Toro Water District may need to contact you. We can do so if we have the correct telephone numbers on file. For example, your neighbor may call the District to report a broken meter or a gushing service line break at your address. With accurate telephone numbers on file, a District representative can attempt to contact you to assist you in resolving the matter quickly.

Often, when you begin service with El Toro Water District, you may not have a telephone number.



Telephone numbers change over time, due to a change of employment, a change in area code, or when unlisted numbers are requested. Whatever the reason for the change, the District would appreciate being notified so we can better serve you.

If you think the District may not have your correct number, please help us to serve you better by completing the Change of Record form below and return it to the District with your payment or simply call Customer Service with your changes at (949) 837-0660.

Thank you for your assistance.

ETWD Customer Change of Record

Account No. _____

Customer Name _____

Service Address _____

Home Telephone _____

Cellular Number _____

Email Address _____

WATER CONSERVATION CORNER

Suggested Weekly Watering Schedule

Weekly Watering Schedule for Spray Head Irrigation Systems

	Turf Grass	Trees, shrubs groundcover
December	2 days 2 cycles of 2 minutes	1 days 2 cycles of 3 minutes
January	2 days 2 cycles of 2 minutes	1 days 2 cycles of 3 minutes
February	2 days 2 cycles of 2 minutes	1 day 2 cycles of 3 minutes

Winter Conservation Tips

Winter is here. Have you changed your sprinkler schedule? What will you do when it is raining? Here are some conservation tips for the winter months.

1. Spreading mulch to all groundcover, shrub and tree areas will help to:
 - reduce water evaporation
 - keep the soil surface open to water for better penetration/infiltration
 - mulching now will reduce weed growth in spring and summer (time savings for you).
2. Use a soil probe to monitor soil moisture and moisture depth.
3. Match the amount of water you are applying to the weather (ET). You can use a range of techniques and tools to do this. One way is to use the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California scheduling calculator. You can access the web site at www.mwdh2o.com. Look for the "Sprinkler Index". Input general information about your site and you will get back an irrigation schedule for your site. Consider if it is high or low. Use a soil probe. Look at the health of the plants. Look for signs of runoff. Make scheduling adjustments.
4. Aerate turf soils. Take the time to aerify in turf areas to promote deeper water penetration and root depth. This will pay off better in summer.💧



LIMITED TIME OFFER FOR RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS

Receive money back when you upgrade to "smart" technology that fully automates landscape watering, based on the weather and water needs of your plants.

Receive a \$40.00 per active valve rebate when you purchase and install your automated weather-based irrigation controller by **January 31, 2006**.*

A 10-valve home could receive a **\$400.00 rebate**.

*To receive this limited-time rebate level, installation **must** be completed by **January 31, 2006**.

Rebates paid **will not** exceed the cost of the installed controller.

This advanced sprinkler control technology will help you:

- 💧 Save money by reducing your outdoor water use by up to **25%**
- 💧 Advance the health and appearance of your landscape
- 💧 Protect our environment by reducing runoff
- 💧 Set it and forget it — over-watering is a thing of the past

For more details, call **1-866-846-3725** or visit www.mwdoc.com/Smartimer/.

Rebates available for eligible applicants while funding lasts.💧

Water Education Corner



WATER POLLUTION "NO-KNOWS"

Most people think water pollution comes directly from a factory or other known source, a type of pollution known as "point source pollution." Because of laws passed in the 1970s, most of those sources of pollution have cleaned up their act. Today, the biggest source of pollution is us - you and me. This type of pollution is known as "nonpoint source pollution" because it can't be traced to one single source; we can't tell how much pollution is coming from where.

Types of nonpoint pollution that ultimately end up in our waterways include used oil poured into storm drains, soil washed from construction sites, grease from restaurants, paint brushes cleaned in the street, or fertilizer and pesticides washed off residential and commercial landscapes. That's why it is so important for all of us to clean up our act and learn how to prevent such pollution.

You can purchase the "No-Know Game" at the Water Education Foundation's website <http://www.watereducation.org/store/itemdetail.asp?id=82>. It can help you learn about bad pollution practices and how to prevent pollution.

Once you play this game, you'll never be able to say, "Oh **no!** I didn't **know**," again. ♠



Photo and information courtesy of the Water Education Foundation.

EL TORO WATER DISTRICT

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The Mission of the El Toro Water District is to plan and invest appropriately to provide its customers a safe, adequate and reliable supply of water, wastewater and recycled water service in an environmentally and economically responsible way.

Water Views is published quarterly to keep water users in the El Toro Water District informed about water and wastewater related issues and events. It is prepared by District staff. [Your comments and suggestions are welcomed.](#) Please call Customer Service at (949) 837-0660 or visit our website at www.etwd.com. The El Toro Water District is a California Water District governed by an elected Board of Directors.

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