



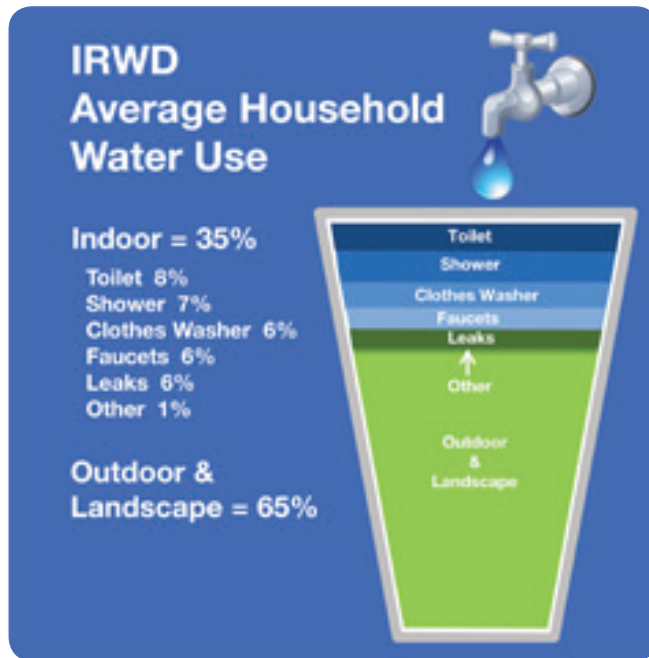
The newsletter of IRWD

January 2013 | Number 1

How to be an Always Water Smart Home

IRWD's Always Water Smart incentives and services will help you make your home water efficient. An Always Water Smart home:

- Saves water and energy
- Saves money on utility and landscape bills
- Reduces landscape maintenance
- Reduces water and energy waste in addition to air pollution, greenhouse gasses and green waste



No matter how much it rains in winter, it's always smart to be water efficient. Leaks and using water excessively, both indoors and outdoors,

waste water and money. Take the time this winter to evaluate your household's water use and

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Sewer Laterals Part II - Clarifying Responsibility

Last month's issue of *Pipelines* featured a story about sewer laterals. To provide clarification, please note that customers are responsible for all maintenance of the sewer lower lateral pipelines. If the lower lateral is properly maintained, then the chance of a pipeline failure is significantly reduced. Common failure issues include: pipelines that have become cracked, disjointed or damaged by roots or earth settlement, and any other failure of the pipe structure itself. The best way to determine the condition of your sewer pipes is to have a professional plumber conduct an inspection and then have all debris and blockages removed.

If there is a failure of the lower lateral pipeline, IRWD will work with the customer to determine what repairs are needed. For more in-depth information about sewer lateral responsibilities, please refer to IRWD's Rules and Regulations, which are posted on www.irwd.com, in the Doing Business section. The specific section on the "Responsibility for Maintenance" for Single Family Units can be found in section 4.15.2. In addition, please visit the sewer information pages on the District's website. If you have a specific question or concern and would like to talk with a knowledgeable staff member, please call IRWD at (949) 453-5300.

Plant Ahead

Winter is the best time to get started on creating an Always Water Smart CALscape. Use our online guide at www.irwdcalscape.org to select the perfect plants to help you save water year-round. Take advantage of CALscape rebates today and save about 1,000 gallons of water per year.

Plant Community Spotlight: While nothing is fire-proof, you can plant an Always Water Smart CALscape that saves water while protecting against fires. Maintain low-growing plants within 30 feet of your house and remove dead and dying vegetation to maintain a defensible barrier.

Some fire-resistant plants to consider:

- Carmel Creeper Ceanothus
- Coyote Brush "Pigeon Point"
- Pacific Mist Manzanita
- Western Redbud



Carmel Creeper Ceanothus



Western Redbud

Fix a Leak, Win Money!

From now through March 31st, IRWD is encouraging you to fix a leak—and send us the bill. If you've recently noticed an unusually high water bill, chances are you could have a leak and not know it! In honor of National Fix a Leak Week, sponsored by the EPA's WaterSense program, IRWD is offering customers an opportunity to win up to \$100 toward the cost of leak repairs. All participants with a qualified leak repair and entry form will be entered to win. Winners will be announced April 30, 2013.

For full details and resources on how to check your home for leaks, visit AlwaysWaterSmart.com and click on Fix a Leak.

Always Water Smart Home ...CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1.

investigate if your home has inefficiencies in some of the following most common areas.

Start Outdoors. The majority of water use for an average household is used outdoors to water plants. Nearly half of the water used outdoors is wasted through overwatering. With smart, simple choices about plants, sprinklers, and maintenance, you can reduce your water bill and have a climate-appropriate landscape – an Always Water Smart CALscape.



Create your CALscape now. If you remove your water-thirsty lawn, IRWD will pay you \$1.50 per square foot of turf removed and help you create your very own Always Water Smart CALscape! Visit the CALscape Resources

page at AlwaysWaterSmart.com for more information about outdoor rebates and resources, including a detailed guide to low-water-use plants and landscaping options.

Check indoors. To make the most impact in reducing your indoor water use, shorten your shower length and upgrade older and inefficient appliances and fixtures. Products marked with an EPA WaterSense label are tested to ensure performance and are typically 20 percent more water efficient than average products.

Ask for help. IRWD maintains a team of Always Water Smart experts who will come to your home to help you identify leaks and inefficiencies. These experts will also provide you with resources, tips on available rebates and incentive programs. So what are you waiting for? Your beautiful new CALscape is out there waiting for you. We can be reached during regular business hours at **(949) 453-5581** or by visiting AlwaysWaterSmart.com 24 hours a day.

Suggested Weekly Winter Irrigation Schedule

Month	Turfgrass	Trees, Shrubs & Ground Cover	% Option ²
January & February	2 days, 2 cycles ¹ of 2 minutes each	1 day, 2 cycles of 3 minutes each	30%

The above chart suggests a weekly schedule for spray-head irrigation, assuming heavy clay soils common to most local coastal and foothill areas. Generally, these are the MAXIMUM times you will need for full sun areas. Your landscape's particular watering times may vary. Start with this schedule and increase the times only if your plants show signs of stress. If stress occurs only in isolated areas, check your irrigation system before increasing the watering time.

¹ By "cycling" the irrigation controller to turn on for the recommended number of minutes an hour apart, deeper watering and healthier root growth are gained, while runoff is reduced.

² The % option, either a button or a dial, permits the watering run times for all electric valves managed by a controller to be increased or decreased with just one adjustment by percentage.



Customer Service Information

IRWD Website Link & Social Media Channels »


24 Hour Customer Access

(949) 453-5300
email: customerservice@irwd.com

Irvine Ranch Water District

15600 Sand Canyon Avenue
Irvine, California 92618

Visit us: www.irwd.com

 Join our fan page:
Irvine Ranch Water District

 @IRWDnews
@AlwaysH2OSmart
@IRWDemergency

 View our YouTube channel:
www.youtube.com/IrvineRanchWD



The mission of Irvine Ranch Water District, a public agency, is to provide reliable, high quality water and sewer service in an efficient, cost effective manner and environmentally sensitive way that provides a high level of customer satisfaction.

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IRWD Pipelines Newsletter

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P.O. Box 57000
Irvine, California 92619-7000

Comments about this publication?
email: info@irwd.com