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Irvine Ranch
WATER DISTRICT

Save the Date

Tap Water 101 Workshop

Tuesday, July 10
6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.

IRWD Operations
Multipurpose Room
3512 Michelson Drive, Irvine

Hear from water quality experts, learn more about the District's testing procedures and find out how IRWD water compares to state and federal standards. Participation is limited to IRWD customers. Attendees must be 16 or older. Light refreshments will be served. Doors open at 6 p.m.

Sign-up required:
irwd.com/water-report

Bottled vs. Tap? Get the Facts

Bottled water last year surpassed soda as America's most popular beverage. It's a \$16-billion-a-year industry, marketing a product that—when purchased one bottle at a time—costs about \$6 per gallon, compared to two-tenths of a cent for a gallon of Irvine Ranch Water District tap.

Since both bottled and tap water meet regulatory standards, the choice is a matter of lifestyle, not health.

Here are some facts to consider:

- Tap water is economical and accessible, particularly with a travel bottle.
- 25% of all bottled water is packaged tap water.
- Plastic bottles produce waste: 85 million bottles are manufactured in the U.S. each day.
- Plastic bottles are made from petroleum—1.5 billion barrels every year—and the production and shipping of them burns fossil fuels.



Make the most of your tap water:

- Drink it from a reusable glass or stainless steel travel bottle to reduce waste.
- Keep it in a pitcher in the fridge to chill it and let it breathe.
- Infuse it with slices of cucumber, lemon or berries for a healthy punch.
- If you use a filter, be sure to change it regularly. Carbon-based filters are breeding grounds for bacteria.

How clean is our water?

Irvine Ranch Water District meets all quality standards set by the state and federal government. Visit irwd.com/water-report to read our annual Water Quality Report, released this month.

Prudential Overall Supply Named WaterStar

In April, Prudential Overall Supply celebrated its 86th year and was recognized as an IRWD WaterStar. The Irvine-based company, with more than 70 employees locally, focuses on commercial and industrial uniform supply and laundry services. Its water-saving measures include plant automation and water-efficient washer and fixture upgrades. Prudential sought to become a WaterStar to save resources, assist the community and take a step toward its commitment to clean, green sustainability. Learn more about IRWD's WaterStar Business Recognition Program at rightscapenow.com/programs/waterstar-business-recognition.



Are You Getting the Right Water Budget for Your Home?

IRWD water bills are based on a monthly water budget established for customers based on typical living conditions and water needs for their dwelling type. We base these calculations on: (1) a default number of residents in a home, (2) an estimated square feet of landscape area, and (3) the amount of water needed seasonally to irrigate the yard. (See graphic below for details.)

If your living situation exceeds the standard monthly allowance, we encourage you to apply for a variance, which can increase your water budget to account for circumstances such as additional people living in the home, special medical needs, and larger landscaped areas. Variances must be renewed annually. To apply, visit irwd.com/services/request-a-water-variance or call 949-453-5300.

Exceeding Your Water Budget?

If you are using more than your monthly water budget, you can request a free water efficiency home audit to find out why. Frequent causes include water leaks, broken sprinkler timers, leaky toilets or broken irrigation systems. Call 949-453-5300.

Indoor water budget = 50 gallons per person, per day.

INDOOR

Single-family residence



Base number of residents per household*
4

Default 1,300 square feet of total irrigated, landscaped area*

Attached home or condo



Base number of residents per household*
3

Default 435 square feet of total irrigated, landscaped area*

Apartment



Base number of residents per household*
2

No irrigated landscaping

OUTDOOR

Outdoor water budget is adjusted seasonally based on 60% warm-season turf plus 40% drought tolerant landscaping.

*To request a higher water allocation, visit: irwd.com/services/request-a-water-variance



Q: I have to replant a hill in my backyard. It is 15 feet high and fairly steep. In the past 46 years, it was planted first with African Daisies, and later with Red Apple succulent. Can you suggest any ground covers that flower and are drought tolerant?

A: African Daisies and Red Apple are considered drought-tolerant or medium-water-use plants—so replanting them wouldn't be a bad choice. However, if you'd like to try something different, I'd suggest the Arthur Menzies Seaside Daisies (*Erigeron Arthur Menzies*) or the Emerald Carpet Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos Emerald Carpet*). There are also many other great groundcover choices to consider. Visit rightscaperesources.com or the California Native Plant Society's website (cnps.org/gardening) to determine what works best for your landscape.

If you have landscape questions for Juan, please email askjuan@irwd.com or ask on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram with [#irwdcommunity](https://twitter.com/irwdcommunity). See past answers at rightscapenow.com/landscape-resources/ask-juan.

**IRWD
Holiday
Office Closing**

Independence Day
Wednesday, July 4

Save the Date

Composting Workshop

Saturday, July 21
9 a.m. – noon

**IRWD
Multi-Purpose Room**
15600 Sand Canyon Ave.
Irvine

Join us for a free presentation with UCCE OC Master Gardener Greg Stevenson, a compost expert. He will cover the basics of traditional composting and vermicomposting (using earthworms).

Sign-up required:
rightscapenow.com/events

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