

splash



FALL 2009

Districts 21, 29, 36 & 80

This Fall Transform your Garden and Save Water

The Los Angeles County Waterworks Districts (Districts) is calling on residents to continue conservation through the fall and winter by updating your outdoor watering habits. In the summer, we have to water more frequently to make up for evaporation due to heat and the longer daylight hours. Fall is the perfect time to save water by incorporating native and drought tolerant plants into your garden and cutting back on outdoor watering. During a year with normal rainfall, no additional watering is necessary. You can turn the sprinklers off until May. These two simple steps will help you to conserve water all year long.



Plant native plants. Drought tolerant and native plants are an attractive and effective way to save water outdoors.

Whether you're a novice gardener with a small flowerbed or an expert who plants a new garden each season, incorporating drought tolerant and native California plants into your garden can help spruce up your yard while preserving vital water supplies.

Fall is the ideal time to plant drought tolerant and native plants as it allows time for your garden to mature before the hot, dry summer. After the plants are established, in six months to a year, they will require much less water



and maintenance than traditional landscaping plants.

Reduce outdoor watering. As days grow shorter plants need less water, even during the warm autumn days. When the days are shorter in the fall and winter, your lawn and garden receive less sunlight allowing it to hold more moisture.. In fact, many landscape experts agree it is not necessary to water your lawn during the cool winter season.



Visit LACWaterworks.org for more information on drought-tolerant and native landscaping. Or visit your local Waterworks District office to pick up a complimentary drought-tolerant plant book.

2010 Customized Billing System Upgrade

The Districts is pleased to announce an upgrade to our billing system! The new Customer Information System will feature more "self-service" options, allowing customers to pay bills by credit card and checking account, in addition to personal/business check, cash, or money order. Also, be on the lookout for our new and easy-to-read bill format that will provide useful information including your home's water consumption history—a useful tool for planning and tracking your water conservation efforts. Visit LACWaterworks.org for the latest updates.



Find & Fix Leaks in Your Home

As you spend time indoors preparing for the holidays, fall is the perfect time to check for leaks.

Follow the steps below to repair leaks and save your home a lot of water and money.

Verify Your Home is Leak-Free.

Many homes have hidden water leaks. Undetected leaks can waste up to 600 gallons per month! Follow these simple steps to check for leaks each month:



Turn off all faucets both inside and outside your home.

Look at your water meter. This is usually located in a ground vault somewhere near the front of your home.

If the dial is moving, you may have a leak. Make a note of the numbers on the dial.

Leaving all water turned off, read your water meter two hours later. If the meter shows a higher number, there is likely a leak somewhere in your yard or home.

Check Faucet Leaks.



Leaky faucets are a common cause of water waste and are very easy and inexpensive to repair. A dripping faucet can waste up to 2,700 gallons per year, which will add to the cost of your water and sewer bills. You can easily repair dripping faucets by replacing washers available at your local hardware store.

Check Toilet Leaks.

A toilet leak can waste as much as 7,000 gallons per month. Follow these simple steps to check for toilet leaks.



Add a few drops of food coloring to the toilet tank.

If the toilet is leaking, color will appear in the toilet bowl within 30 minutes.

Check the toilet for worn out, corroded or bent parts. Most replacement parts are inexpensive, readily available at your local hardware store and easily installed.

Visit LACWaterworks.org or call (888) 828-8602 to sign up for a *free* in-home water use evaluation. A water conservation check-list will show you how to make your home more water efficient and help detect any potential water leaks in your home.



District 29

Malibu, Topanga, Marina del Rey — Keep Conserving

This summer you took action and reduced water use by 17 percent! As the community faces ongoing dry conditions, District 29 customers must remember to continue to reduce water use by maintaining your outdoor water conservation practices. And remember, mandatory conservation is still in effect until June 2010. Customers can use the following tips to continue to avoid penalties and reduce water use all year round:

- **Reduce watering times** in the fall and winter. Set timers to run only two days per week in the fall between 6 p.m. – 6 a.m. in Topanga and Marina del Rey and between 8 p.m. – 8 a.m. in Malibu. Turn off your sprinklers completely in the winter. Make sure sprinklers aren't watering the sidewalk and repair broken sprinkler heads.
- **Install water-saving hardware** Take advantage of rebates up to \$150 for rotating sprinkler nozzles, smart sprinkler controllers and high efficiency toilets.
- **Use a broom instead of a hose** to clean sidewalks, walkways and driveways. Be sure to take your car to a professional carwash.

Still not sure where to start? Visit LACWaterworks.org for more water saving tips and information about our rebate program for water saving hardware.



Let Us Know

To report water leaks or nuisance water running into the street, call **1 (800) 675-HELP**. Please provide an address for our Districts crews to investigate.

County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works
P.O. Box 1460
Alhambra, CA 91802-1460
Phone: (626) 300-3362
Email: mbarrett@dpw.lacounty.gov

www.lacwaterworks.org



Mission: "To provide reliable, high-quality water at a reasonable cost to all of our customers."