



GOLDEN RAIN

Foundation

of LAGUNA WOODS



Newsletter

Laguna Woods Village Water Supply Shortage and Conservation

According to El Toro Water District (ETWD), continued drought, low reservoir levels, and other water restrictions require increased Village-wide efforts to conserve water indoors and out.

It is essential for each individual within the community to do their part to conserve water indoors and outside of their home. The goal, mandated by ETWD, is to reduce indoor consumption by a minimum of 5% and outdoor consumption by a minimum of 26% over the same period in 2007.

The Landscape Department, under the direction of the community Boards, has implemented modified landscape procedures to save water throughout the community. You may notice:

- Turf is being mowed at a height of 4 inches (versus 3 inches), so you will see 'taller' turf.
- California friendly plants with moderate to low water requirements are being installed through the re-landscaping program, so you may notice different plants in the community.
- Drip irrigation systems are being installed, so in locations during and after installation, you will not see irrigation heads in the shrub beds.
- Irrigation run times have been reduced by 30% or more throughout the community. You will see more dry or stressed areas in the turf; and certain plants in shrub beds and slopes could show symptoms of stress such as wilting, change in leaf color, and in more severe cases, plant failure.
- More efficient irrigation heads are being installed where appropriate, so you will see increased run times as these heads have a reduced precipitation rate, resulting in less loss due to drift.
- Multiple irrigation run times—irrigation stations will run on shorter, but repeated cycles to increase water percolation into the soil and to prevent runoff.

Despite these efforts by the Landscape Department, dryer weather in September and similar projections for the balance of

this drought year, it will be more and more difficult for the community to reduce outside irrigation by the mandated 26%.

Exceeding water allocations established by the El Toro Water District during this critical period of water shortage shall expose the community to significant financial penalties.

The water you save indoors and outside of your home will help offset increased outside irrigation demands necessary to minimally sustain landscapes during projected dryer conditions and to minimize water over-usage penalties and avoid the cost and poor appearance of plant loss.

How you can Help by Saving Water in the Home

It is critical that each individual within the community do their part to conserve water indoors and outside of their home. Here are some tips provided by ETWD:

- Fix or report leaky faucets and running toilets. This saves at least 20 gallons per day for every leak.
- Run only full loads in the washing machine and dishwasher. This saves 300 to 800 gallons per month.
- Shorten your shower time. Even a one or two-minute reduction can save up to 700 gallons per month.
- Don't use your toilet as an ashtray or wastebasket. This saves 400 to 600 gallons per month.
- Capture tap water. While you wait for hot water to come through the pipes, catch the flow in a watering can or bucket and use later on houseplants or your garden. This saves 200 to 300 gallons a month.
- Keep a bottle of drinking water in the refrigerator. This beats the wasteful habit of running tap water to cool it for drinking, and saves 200 to 300 gallons per month.

Report Violators

If you see an individual watering common areas with their own hose, you may advise ETWD by calling their customer service center at **(949) 837-0660**.

Resources

ETWD has great tips and resources for water saving in the home. Go to **www.etwd.com** and click on "Conservation".