

Maximize Your Water Savings This Summer

California is in its fourth straight year of an extreme water shortage. While you and your neighbors have made wise investments to secure our water supply, we now need to carefully manage these assets in the event of an extended drought. Every gallon you save is a gallon we get to store in our reservoir and use next year, when it might still be needed.



Reduce or eliminate lawn irrigation this summer. Reducing your sprinkler schedule by one watering day saves up to 400 gallons per week.

In early June, we sent each customer a letter that detailed their reduction goal. If you need specific information about your reduction goal, call us at **925-688-8044**. We know that many of our customers have already taken steps to reduce their water use. We thank you for those efforts. We understand finding additional ways to be more water efficient can be tricky. Water savings are generally easier when the weather is warmer. Cut back as much as possible this summer to balance out the winter months, when it's more difficult to reduce your water use. We also encourage you to take advantage of our free home water-use evaluations. A conservation specialist will visit your home—at no extra charge—and suggest new ways to make your water use more efficient. Visit www.ccwater.com/conserves or call **925-688-8320** to schedule one today.

Prohibited Uses of Water

- Watering of outdoor landscapes more than two days per week
- Outdoor watering between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.
- Hosing down sidewalks and driveways
- Watering outdoor landscapes in a manner that causes excess runoff
- Irrigating turf or ornamental landscapes within 48 hours of rainfall
- Washing a motor vehicle with a hose, unless the hose is fitted with a shut-off nozzle
- Operating a fountain or decorative water feature, unless the water is part of a recirculating system; we *strongly* suggest turning off all fountains
- Restaurants and other food service establishments can only serve water to customers upon request
- Hotels and motels must provide guests with the option of choosing not to have towels and linens laundered daily
- Watering of ornamental turf on public street medians
- Watering of landscape of newly constructed homes and buildings in a manner inconsistent with regulations or other requirements established by the California Building Standards Commission and the Department of Housing and Community Development

NOTE: Violating these prohibitions may result in fines of up to \$500 per incident, suspension of service and a penalty of \$10 per 748 gallons used in the violation.

Look Outside the Home

Water-efficient appliances have made many of our homes lean water users. Outside irrigation is our focus for achieving community-wide reduction. Thus, we are asking all accounts that are solely for outdoor irrigation to conserve 45% compared to their 2013 use. Residential and commercial accounts—which make up the majority of our account holders—are asked to conserve 25% compared to their 2013 use. The outdoor use is the best place to focus on reductions.

Am I Meeting My Goal?

Learn to read your meter to get real-time water-use details. Here's what you'll need: A large screwdriver, a pen or pencil, and a simple log sheet.

- Lift the lid using the screwdriver. Be careful not to drop the lid on your fingers or on the meter.
- Log the odometer reading as well as the date (and time) you read it.
- After a period of days, read the odometer again and log the number, date and time.
- Subtract the first reading from the second reading. This is the amount of cubic feet consumed.
- Multiply the number of cubic feet by 7.48 (this is the number of gallons consumed).
- Divide the number of gallons by the number of days between readings. This is your average gallons per day during the period.

Now that you have your average daily use, you can compare it to your 2013 baseline use, which is included on the back of your water bill. Visit www.ccwater.com for a meter calculator that will help you determine your water use.



Ensuring Your Water Quality

Have you ever been driving through town and notice a Contra Costa Water District employee standing near a hydrant that is gushing out water? Although it may appear to be wasteful, flushing of hydrants is an important maintenance practice for our water system and allows us to deliver the highest quality water to customers. Flushing removes mineral and sediment deposits that build up over time in our underground system of pipes. While it's not harmful to customers, the buildup can create taste and odor issues if not flushed out.

During the drought, we are only using the practice in response to specific water quality needs. We make every attempt to minimize the volume of water that is flushed and repurpose it where possible.

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Don't Miss a Drop!

Want to find out about local water issues and upcoming events? Like **Contra Costa Water District** on Facebook and follow **@CCWD** on Twitter.

Report Water Waste

California is experiencing a serious water shortage. Wasteful water practices send precious gallons of water down the drain. That's water we could put in storage for later use if this drought continues. Do your part to stop waste. If you notice water waste in your neighborhood, take note of the time, date and location. Report the waste at www.ccwater.com or by calling **925-688-8044**. We'll look into the issue and help the water user correct the wasteful action.

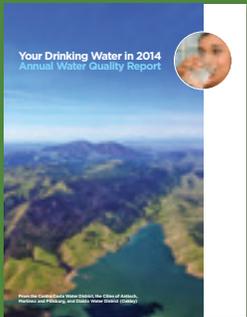
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Summer 2015



Your Drinking Water Report



As part of our efforts to be environmentally friendly and cost efficient, print copies of the Annual Water Quality Report will no longer be mailed to customers. Instead, a postcard will be sent out this summer when the electronic version of the report is posted online. The report will be available at www.ccwater.com/awqr. Paper copies will be made available upon request at 1331 Concord Avenue, Concord or by calling 925-688-8000.



A Great Canal, A Terrible Swimming Hole

The 48-mile Contra Costa Canal is a tremendous asset to Contra Costa County. It assures a year-round source of fresh water for homes and businesses. It's also a pleasant-looking sight for walkers, cyclists and other trail users.

But the canal is not designed to be a swimming hole. First of all, it is deep. Second, to permit an efficient flow of water, the sides are steep. And there are no lifeguards. Each year, emergency responders receive calls about people needing rescue from the canal. Sometimes, they're called too late.

So parents, please help us avoid future tragedies and tell your children the canal is not a shortcut or a play area. Do not fish in the canal or climb its fences, not even to retrieve an item or pet. In emergencies, always call 9-1-1 for assistance.

Staying safe is simple when you follow the signs along the canal:

- **NO SWIMMING** – The water in the canal may look slow, but it is really moving fast. The swift current could pull you down and you could drown.
- **NO CLIMBING** – The fence is there to protect you. The sides of the canal are steep and slippery. Don't ever try to rescue people or pets from the canal. Instead, get to a phone and call 9-1-1 in an emergency.
- **NO FISHING** – Fishing in the canal is strictly prohibited for safety reasons. It is dangerous and you could be ticketed by Canal Patrol for doing it.

The Contra Costa Water District employs a Canal Patrol to remind trail users of safety practices and to respond to emergencies. Anybody caught crossing the canal fence may be fined. Help us keep the canal a safe place for people to enjoy. If you see anyone breaking safety rules, or if you notice an opening in the fence, call the CCWD Canal Patrol at **925-688-8356**.