



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Landscape Irrigation Prohibitions... what does it really mean?

This summer most of the water districts in South Orange County declared some sort of water alert and issued water conservation prohibitions. How do the prohibitions change the way people use water outside their homes?

Lake Forest, CA – Approximately 70 percent of total water used by Southern California homeowners is used outside the home. Luckily, managing outdoor water use is one of the easiest places to practice conservation and save money.

El Toro Water District recently implemented mandatory water conservation measures and many of the measures pertain to landscape irrigation.

WATERING HOURS

Adjust your sprinkler system to run sometime before 10:00 a.m. or after 5:00 p.m. The goal is to water landscape when the evaporation rate is low, so that your grass and plants are able to absorb the water, not the sun.

WATER RUNOFF

Take a walk around your yard while the irrigation system is running and after it has finished a typical cycle, look for runoff that hits your sidewalks, driveway or street. Over time excessive runoff compromises hardscape surfaces. An adjustment of your sprinkler head will also reduce the possibility of urban runoff.

WATERING IN THE RAIN

Although not often an issue during the summer months, it is common to see irrigation systems running in the rain during the winter. Customers who adjust their irrigation systems to reflect the weather enjoy conservation benefits and save money.

DECORATIVE FOUNTAINS

Use re-circulated water in all decorative fountains and water features. Enjoy the soothing sounds of running water without using precious drinking water.

CLEANING PAVED SURFACES

Use a broom to clean your driveway, sidewalk and patio, instead of water. A running hose can waste 13 gallons per minute.

IRRIGATION FREQUENCY

Limit irrigation to three days per week. Improving water efficiency and reducing consumption is the primary goal of the water conservation prohibitions.

For additional information about the mandatory water conservation measures, please contact ETWD at 949.837.0660 or visit www.etwd.com.

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The El Toro Water District is a full service water, wastewater and recycled water district, providing water service across portions of the cities of Aliso Viejo, Lake Forest, Laguna Hills and Mission Viejo and the entire city of Laguna Woods.