

Your landscape can survive the drought

Your yard: It's your retreat. It may be where the kids play, where you read that novel and where Sparky gets his dog tan while gnawing his chew toy.

But this is California; and we're in a drought. You want to follow the new watering rules and stretch our supply. So what can you do to nourish your landscape and cut back on water use?

Waste not, water less

A typical EBMUD customer pours 40 percent of their water on outdoor plants. Of that, up to half is wasted. Let us help you save like a pro and eliminate wasteful water use practices that never make it on to the plants (and get a rebate while you're at it.)

- **Drip, drip, drip.** Is the pavement getting more water than your plants? If you are using spray irrigation to water shrubs and trees, try converting to drip. Your plants will thank you.
- **Even Steven.** Spray systems are prone to uneven watering, and spray patterns may be blocked by plants, lights or hardware causing runoff. By converting to high-efficiency rotator nozzles, you can use 30 percent less water, improve irrigation pressure plus get more even coverage, which means a healthier lawn.
- **Be controlling.** Conventional timers commonly apply twice the amount of water that plants need. Use a "smart" controller to adjust irrigation times in response to weather or soil moisture, giving plants just the water they need... and not a drop more.
- **Misty is calling.** Does your irrigation system tend to break and deliver a fine mist? High water pressure is likely the culprit. Install a pressure regulator so irrigation spray lands on plants, not everywhere else. You can reduce water use as much as 20 percent.

More ideas? Visit www.ebmud.com/watersmart and click on WaterSmart tips.

Pick wisely. Pick WaterSmart.

One way to water less is to choose less thirsty plants. Look for the WaterSmart plant tag, coming soon to EBMUD's nursery partners. Plants that sport this tag are featured in EBMUD's *Plants and Landscapes for Summer Dry Climates*. Get your book at www.ebmud.com/plantbook.



Watering restrictions in effect.

The lack of rain and snow this past year resulted in emergency regulations curbing outdoor water use and waste.

Mandatory state-wide restrictions require that you:

- Limit watering of outdoor landscapes to two times per week maximum and prevent excess runoff.
- Use only hoses with shutoff nozzles to wash vehicles.
- Use a broom or air blower, not water, to clean hard surfaces such as driveways and sidewalks, except as needed for health and safety purposes.
- Turn off any fountain or decorative water feature unless the water is recirculated.

East Bay residents are making conservation a way of life. Between February 11, when drought cutbacks began, and mid-August, EBMUD customers met the goal of using 10 percent less water compared to last year.

EBMUD is here to help

Customers are reaching out to EBMUD for help. This year, customers received home water inspections, conducted home surveys and received over 6,000 rebates for toilet and clothes washer replacements, irrigation controllers or landscape and irrigation conversions.

Learn more about drought restrictions and saving water by visiting www.ebmud.com

The whoosh of flushing ensures great water

During the drought, heads may turn when people see water gushing from fire hydrants while an EBMUD crew is at work. This process, called pipeline flushing, is a necessary step to protect public health and ensure the great water quality EBMUD is known for.



The next step after pipeline flushing is for EBMUD system inspectors to collect and analyze samples to ensure water quality following a pipeline repair.

Why is Flushing Necessary?

EBMUD conducts hydrant flushing to clean out a pipe after a water main breaks. When the pipe is being repaired, rust and sediment can settle into the new pipe. Crews use chlorine to disinfect the repaired pipes. Then they turn on the powerful pressure and flow of fire hydrants to scour the pipelines, rapidly removing dirt that can enter the pipe during repairs that may contain bacteria and minerals. When the water runs clear, crews restore the main to service. Disinfectants are neutralized and water is directed to a mesh filter to catch debris before water is released into nearby storm drains.

The results of flushing are evident in water quality tests and in the water that comes out of your tap. Who would want dirty water sprinkled with sediment? Flushing pipes ensures safe and clear drinking water to 1.3 million EBMUD customers.

The After-Party

The work doesn't end there. Water quality inspectors arrive on site within 24 hours to collect samples and check pH and chlorine levels after a repaired main is returned to service. The initial flush and follow-up sampling ensures that all customers receive high-quality drinking water that meets or surpasses all state and federal regulatory requirements.

During the drought, EBMUD is exploring creative ways to reuse flushed water, where feasible, including watering school playing fields and public grounds.

To learn more about the quality of drinking water in your neighborhood, visit www.ebmud.com/our-water/water-quality.

 **EAST BAY
MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT**
P.O. Box 24055 • Oakland, CA 94623
1-866-40-EBMUD (1-866-403-2683)
www.ebmud.com

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EBMUD Mission Statement

To manage the natural resources with which the District is entrusted; to provide reliable, high-quality water and wastewater services at fair and reasonable rates for the people of the East Bay; and to preserve and protect the environment for future generations.