

# Don't spoil the Bay

## Five types of pollutants to keep out of drains

It's a New Year and the perfect opportunity to renew your resolution to reduce pollution in our San Francisco Bay. Help EBMUD ensure the water we release back into the ocean is free of pollutants. Keep the following materials out of sinks and toilets to prevent **SPOIL**ing the water.

# S P O I L

**S**oaps, solvents and cleaning supplies labeled "toxic," "corrosive," "flammable," or "ignitable," contain harmful chemicals that can affect aquatic life.

**P**ills, including unwanted or unused prescriptions, release dangerous drugs into the Bay. Discard your unwanted medicines at a designated collection site.

**O**ils, fats and grease from cooking clog drains. This includes grease drippings from meat. Scrape cooking fats into the garbage or into your green recycling bin.

**I**ntimate one-time-use products labeled "disposable," or "flushable," such as condoms, tampons, dental floss and personal hygiene wipes clump in the sewer line and cause backups. Always throw these products in the trash.

**L**andscaping materials like fertilizers and pesticides contain potentially hazardous chemicals that can pollute local creeks and the Bay. Rain or other water currents can carry these products to storm drains, bypassing the treatment process.

For more information visit  
[www.ebmud.com/cleanbay](http://www.ebmud.com/cleanbay).

# Save water today for future non-rainy days

California may be facing a third consecutive dry year, which could lead to drought conditions in the spring. East Bay residents already are smart about making every drop count, but an extra ounce of conservation today could benefit our water supply for tomorrow. Please consider the following tips to prevent excess water use this winter.

## Insulate your hot water pipes

Chilly temperatures will surely drive desires for long, hot showers. But letting a shower run until the water warms up is inefficient. To speed up the process and keep water warm in between uses, insulate exposed hot water pipes, especially those closest to the water heater. Or, invest in a hot-water-on-demand system, also called a tankless water heater, which pumps cold water directly into the water heater.

## Prevent toilet leaks

Water leaks can account for up to 30 percent of a house's indoor water use. Toilets are the most vulnerable to leaks because repeated daily use wears on their parts. Replace old flapper valves to stop spontaneous flushes and silent tank leaks. EBMUD offers free dye tablets to homeowners and businesses that can be used to help detect leaks.

## Cut back on unnecessary water use

Although the sight of water is visually refreshing, decorative water use can be wasteful. This year, consider turning off decorative ponds, lakes and fountains that do not operate on recycled water systems. Choose brooms to clear sidewalks instead of hoses, install a nozzle on your hose for automatic shutoff and install an outdoor drip irrigation system to prevent excess water use.

EBMUD offers various rebates to replace outdated irrigation systems with more conservation-friendly versions. Check out the "WaterSmart" center at [www.ebmud.com/watersmart](http://www.ebmud.com/watersmart) for information on rebate and dye tablets.



# Get involved in planning for your future water needs

Keeping rates reasonable for EBMUD customers is a key part of our daily mission, yet delivering water to 1.3 million people every day is a costly affair, especially through pipes that are more than 100 years old in some areas.

EBMUD is launching a series of workshops this year to evaluate how best to fund the East Bay's water and wastewater infrastructure needs in the coming decade. We invite the public to attend these workshops, which will be held at EBMUD offices at 375 11th Street in Oakland. Workshop dates will be set after the start of the New Year.

## Spring: District financial forecast

*District personnel will detail our infrastructure plan and existing debt.*

## Summer: Capital improvement program

*Join the discussion about long-term projects, including how we protect facilities against damage from earthquakes.*

## Fall: Financial risks and reserves

*The fall workshop will provide a look at how water sales, wastewater treatment and drought affect our finances.*

## Winter: Forecast and cost of service study findings

*Following a year of review and analysis, EBMUD staff will wrap up the findings and offer a long-term financial forecast.*

Visit [www.ebmud.com](http://www.ebmud.com) for information on the existing operating budget and customer rates.

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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.