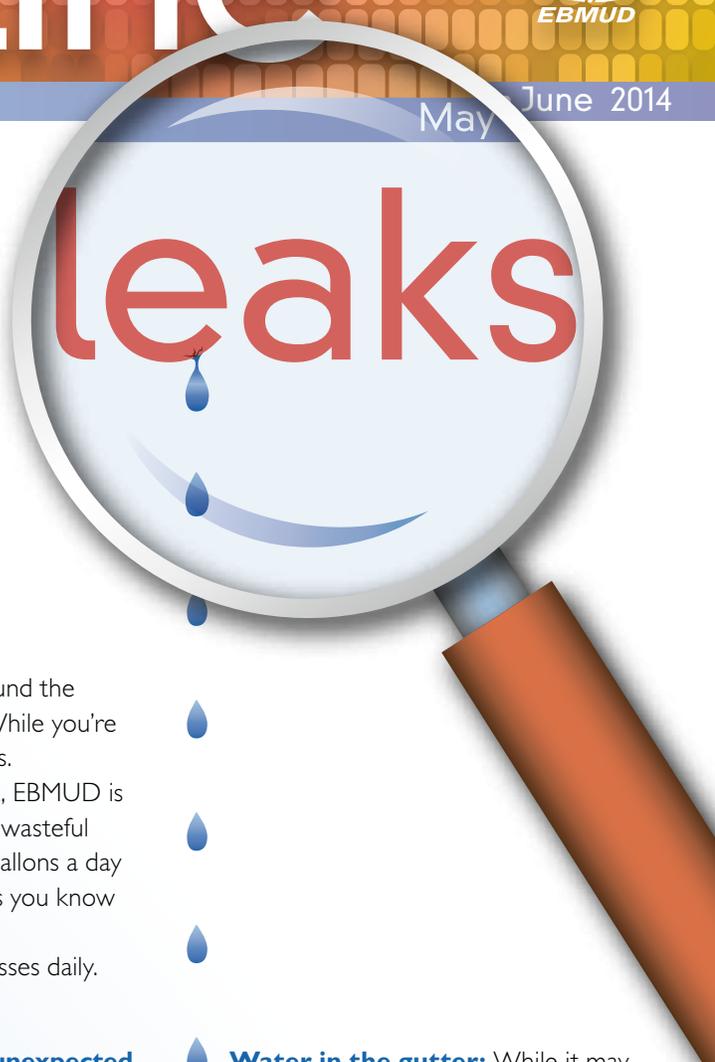


Looking for in all the right places



leaks

The splendor of spring is upon us and the hot days of summer are just around the corner. This time of year is perfect for backyard parties and barbecues. While you're sprucing up your yard, consider checking your outdoor sprinklers for leaks.

Because no one can predict how long this historic California drought will last, EBMUD is asking customers to support our community-wide conservation goals by fixing wasteful leaks. Outdoor irrigation leaks can be extremely wasteful – as many as 1,000 gallons a day can be lost through a broken sprinkler valve. They are difficult to detect, unless you know the tell-tale signs.

EBMUD water conservation technicians inspect customer homes and businesses daily. Here are their tips to help you find out if part of your system is leaking.

Cracks in cement: Water causes the earth to move. Is your driveway cracking? What about the beautiful pathway that meanders through your yard? If so, there is a chance you have a leak either in your lateral pipe, which connects your house to the EBMUD main line in the street, or in your irrigation system. Cracks in the driveway tend to come from a lateral. Inspect your lateral by looking for water pooling on the ground near the pipe that connects to your house from outside. Next, turn on your sprinkler system and check each sprinkler head to see if it's leaking.

Grass/moss/growth in unexpected places or yellowing plants: Do you notice arbitrary patches of grass popping up throughout your yard? Perhaps in the cracks of a cobblestone pathway? What about moss growth in between bushes or under trees? Or are the leaves on your plants more yellow than green? Grass needs soil, light and water to grow. If there's growth somewhere there shouldn't be, there's a chance there's a leak. And if your plants are a lighter color than they should be, you could be over-watering them.

Water in the gutter: While it may seem obvious that gutters will contain water, it also should be obvious that water running in a gutter is going to the sewer rather than being used. Eliminate water waste with more conservative practices, such as watering your landscape in spurts of only five minutes at a time to allow the soil to absorb the water. This is especially important on slopes. By reducing the amount of time you water your yard, you can stop flooding your landscape. Set your irrigation system to run for five minutes at 4 a.m. before the sun rises, then again at 5 a.m. to maximize your water input in the ground and minimize the amount that will run down the gutter.

The long/lawn goodbye

Love your yard but hate the maintenance? EBMUD wants you to have the backyard of your dreams and we're willing to help you pay for it. EBMUD has \$200,000 to give to customers who remove their lawns and replace them with a more sustainable landscape. Apply now to receive federal assistance for your landscape remodel and follow these steps to remove your lawn this summer in time for planting season this fall.

- First, schedule an appointment with an EBMUD water conservation technician. The technician will need to see your lawn (at least partially alive) in order to qualify you for the rebate of .50¢ per square foot. Email waterconservation@ebmud.com or call 866-403-2683 today to schedule your appointment.
- Once a technician has entered you into the rebate system, you are ready to remove your lawn. Stop watering. Then start digging a 3-inch-deep trench wherever your lawn meets a cement surface.
- Next, start the sheet mulching process to suppress weeds and grass and break down your lawn naturally. Cover the entire lawn with two layers of cardboard so the sun won't get through, making sure to pull the cardboard over the trench you've dug. Wet the cardboard, then add at least three inches of compost or mulch. The process could take up to six weeks.

- While you wait for the cardboard to do its job, take time to brainstorm landscaping options. EBMUD technicians have seen a myriad of conversion ideas transform run-of-the-mill grassy yards into beautiful, unique outdoor reprieves. EBMUD customers have created everything from herb and vegetable gardens to patios with wood-burning pizza ovens, to desert succulent gardens, to romantic wildflower beds.
- Get a copy of the EBMUD's award-winning "Plants and Landscapes for Summer-Dry Climates" book at www.ebmud.com/about/publications for inspiration on what to plant. Also, visit the "residential pollution prevention" link off the "Water & Wastewater" tab at www.ebmud.com for a guide on gardening supplements that steer away from fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides that are toxic.
- Come fall, you will be ready to introduce new plants and designs to your yard.

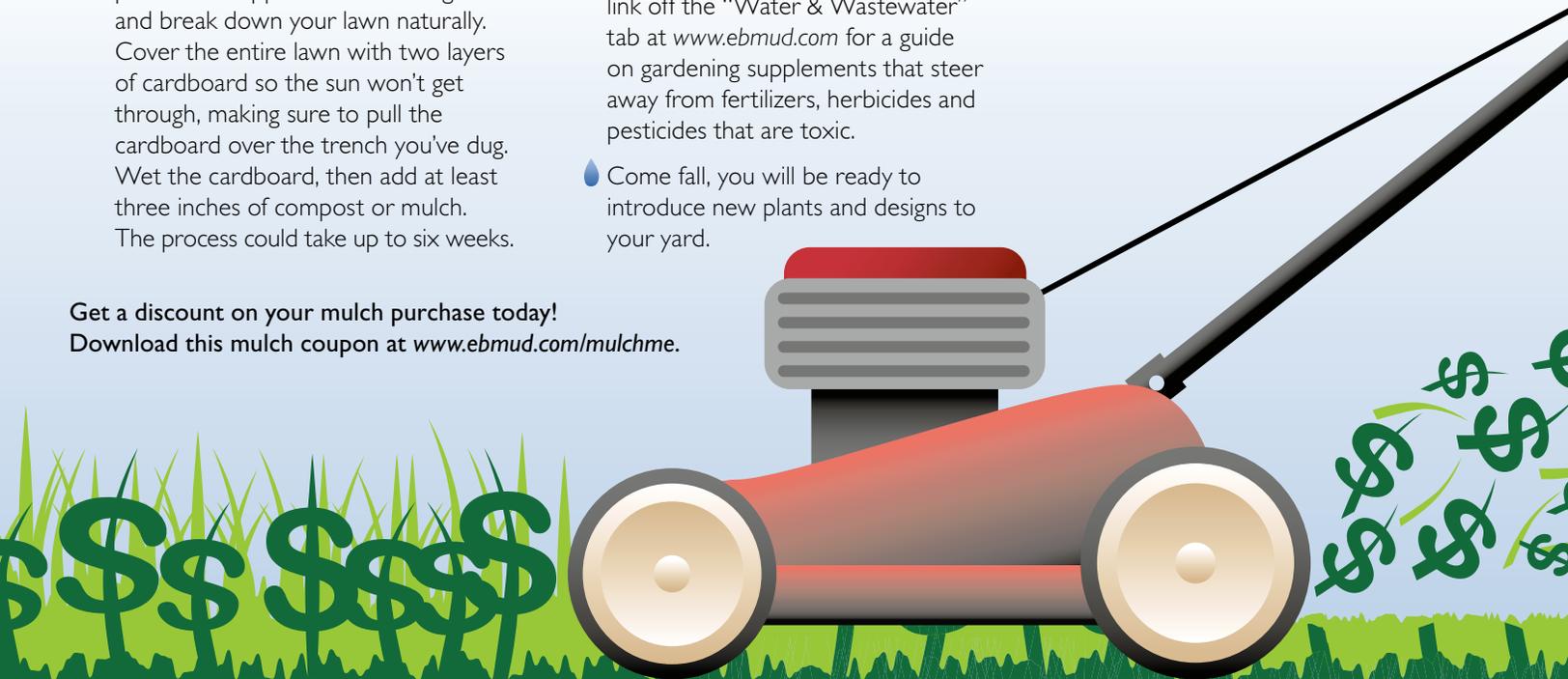
Ways to pay

For your convenience, EBMUD offers various ways for you to pay your water bill.

To pay by credit, debit or e-check, either call 800-690-4798 or visit the "customers" tab at www.ebmud.com. Or, you can sign up to view and pay your bill online at www.mycheckfree.com.

EBMUD pay stations are located throughout the service area. While checks no longer are accepted at pay stations, some drop boxes will accept debit card payments. For more information on where to drop off your payment, visit the "customers" tab on www.ebmud.com. From there, follow the "ways to pay" link and download the list of pay stations and drop box locations.

Get a discount on your mulch purchase today!
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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.