

Irvine Ranch Water District Pipelines

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The drain is not a dump! Help keep fats, oils and grease out of the sewers

Irvine Ranch Water District, along with many other cities and water agencies in Orange County, are launching a new public education campaign to eliminate improper disposal of fats, oils and grease (FOG). The campaign's tagline, "The drain is not a dump!" is meant to remind people that putting fats, oils or grease down a sink can be unhealthy and costly.

Putting these greasy materials down a sink can lead to sewer clogs, and clogs can lead to wastewater backing up into your home or business, spilling out onto the streets, and even finding its way into storm drains and to the beaches. Cleanup can be expensive for homeowners, and especially expensive for businesses like restaurants, which can also be subject to fines and closures.

"We want to completely eliminate sewage spills within our jurisdiction. Public education is the first step in making this a no-spill zone," said IRWD Collection System Manager Lou Roberts.

Restaurants are now required to store fats, oils



*The drain is not a dump.
Put fats, oils and grease
where they belong.*



and grease in containers that are picked up by permitted recycling and rendering facilities.

Residents are asked to mix fats, oils and grease with absorbent waste such as paper towels, kitty litter, coffee grounds, or shredded newspaper before discarding in the trash.

Residents and businesses will begin seeing the FOG messages in posters, brochures, ads and announcements on radio and TV around Orange County.

This multilingual public education program is in response to the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region's enactment of Order No. R8-2002-0014, which calls for a Sewer System Management Plan. A key element of the plan is a public education program designed to inform the general public and food service establishments such as restaurants about proper disposal of fats, oils and grease. Education materials are available in English, Mandarin Chinese, Korean, Spanish and Vietnamese.

Got a clog? Call IRWD before you clear it

As the accompanying article points out, fats, oils and grease don't belong in the sewer. Another common problem in sewer lines occurs when tree roots obstruct the flow.

While IRWD maintains the community-wide sewer system, the sewer pipes within your own home and on your property out to the sewer main in the street are the responsibility of the property owner. If you find that your home's sewer pipes become clogged with grease or roots, it will require either do-it-yourself maintenance or assistance from a plumber to clear the blockage.

Before attempting to unblock clogged sewer lines, however, IRWD asks that property owners call us at (949) 453-5300 so that we can be aware of the location where this work is taking place. Often times, grease or a root ball is cleared from a home's pipe system, only to move out into the street and cause a clog in IRWD's sewer system. Such a clog can result in a sewage spill from a manhole.

So help IRWD protect the environment by notifying us before you clear a clogged sewer line.



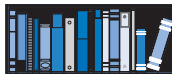
Shadetree Partnership Gets Another Greenhouse

Kevin Gilpin of Boy Scout Troop 616 of Irvine successfully completed a second greenhouse for the Shadetree Partnership's nursery at UC Irvine for his Eagle project.

Kevin, now an 18-year-old student at Orange Coast College, completed his project over the summer with a host of volunteers from his troop. He received donations of supplies and cash so he could purchase needed materials. His project took a total of about five days to complete - spread out over a few weekends.

In the above photo, volunteers erect the framework for the greenhouse. In the lower photo, Kevin poses in the doorway of his completed greenhouse. The facility will be used to propagate cuttings, which will eventually become a part of Shadetree's larger stock.

Shadetree is a non-profit organization that promotes more livable communities through the planting and stewardship of shade trees.



Know Your H₂O

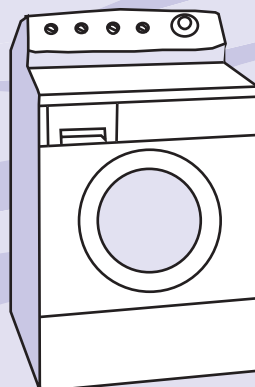
- One acre-foot of water equals 325,900 gallons, or enough to fill a football field to a depth of one foot.
- One acre-foot of water is enough to supply the needs of a household of five for a year.
- In California, 71 million acre-feet of water runs off the mountains each year in the form of rain or snowmelt.
- All of California's reservoirs together can hold only 42 million acre-feet of water.
- On average, 13 million acre-feet of fresh water per year flows out the California Delta into the ocean.

Source: Water Education Foundation

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4. Better water extraction means less dry time and more energy savings.

This program is sponsored by these agencies and your local water agency:



Check with your local energy providers for additional rebates on high-efficiency washing machines.

Water Conservation Tips



- **Continue to cut back on your watering.** By the end of November, plants will need up to half of what they needed in August. Why? Because the days are shorter. As you continue cutting back on the amount of water you're providing your landscape, watch for signs of stress. Lawns show stress when grass blades turn wiry and don't pop back up when stepped on. Plants and bushes show stress when leaves droop or start to turn color. Domestic plants will easily recover from minor stress.
- **Brown grass.** Warm season grasses go into dormancy and turn brown this time of year. No amount of water will change that! Some landscapers will "overseed" with an annual rye grass to keep a lawn looking green. You will need to water more frequently to get the seeds to germinate, but only a few BRIEF minutes each day for a couple weeks-just enough to get the seeds wet.
- **Avoid "topping" trees.** Topping can severely damage a tree. It removes the canopy of the tree, which normally cools the area up to 15 degrees during the summer and insulates the area during the winter. Removing this protection can cause an increase in energy consumption to cool the home and an increase in water consumption on exposed landscape.
- **Topped trees must be maintained, thinned or repaired** on a much more frequent basis than if the tree was originally pruned to conform to its natural character.
- **Topping trees indiscriminately removes the tree's major branches and stimulates the growth of numerous upright branches,** which are not as strongly attached to the tree as natural growth. They grow rapidly and more densely, quickly reaching the height of the tree prior to topping. As these new shoots grow and increase in weight, the resulting limbs are more susceptible to wind damage.
- **Topping cuts off a major portion of the tree's food manufacturing ability** and eliminates a large percentage of the tree's food reserves. This can kill older trees.
- **Topping opens the potential for disease and insect intrusion.** Once decay has established itself at the branch stub, it often spreads to the main trunk, which can ultimately kill the tree.

Suggested Weekly Watering Schedule for the Months of November and December

WEEKLY WATERING SCHEDULE FOR SPRAY HEAD IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

	Turf grass	Trees, shrubs, groundcover	Percent Option
November	1-2 days, 1-2 cycles* of 2-3 minutes	1 day, 2 cycles* of 4 minutes	40%**
December	1-2 days, 1-2 cycles* of 1-2 minutes	1 day, 2 cycles* of 3 minutes	30%**

**By "cycling" your irrigation timer to turn on for the suggested number of minutes an hour apart, you reduce runoff and gain deeper watering and healthier root growth. Start with this weekly schedule and increase the times only if your plants show signs of stress. If stress occurs only in isolated areas, check your irrigation system before increasing the time.*

***Some irrigation controllers have a feature by which the watering time can be set by changing the percentage instead of specifically entering the days, cycles and minutes.*

If you don't have the instructions for your controller, check the manufacturer's website. Many controller manufacturers provide online access to the owner's manual.

Irvine Ranch Water District offices will be closed on the following holidays:

- Thursday and Friday, November 25 and 26, 2004 - Thanksgiving holiday
- Friday, December 24, 2004 - Christmas holiday
- Friday, December 31, 2004 - New Year's Eve holiday
- Monday, January 3, 2005 - New Year's Day holiday

FAMILIES FORWARD

Need something new in your life? Want to give of your time to the community? Families Forward provides a variety of volunteer opportunities including office receptionist, pantry worker, food pick-up, food drive coordination, event support and much more! Start the new year with a new experience. Call the Director of Volunteers at (949) 552-2727, Ext. 226 for an interview and additional information.

CITY OF IRVINE NEWS

Irvine's "Joyful Jingles" Family Holiday Concert - Saturday, December 18 at 2 p.m. at Irvine Civic Center

The City of Irvine and Irvine Valley College will host "Joyful Jingles," a family holiday concert featuring the Masterworks Chorale with a guest performance by the Southern California Children's Chorus. A reception will precede the concert at 1 p.m. This free event is open to the public. For more information, call (949) 724-6606 or visit <http://www.ci.irvine.ca.us>.

UNITED WAY UPDATE

- Orange County United Way to Host Hispanic Influentials Awards Dinner - Friday, February 11, 2005 at Hyatt Regency Irvine

This annual event recognizes top Latinos in Orange County with awards for their outstanding achievements and contributions to the local Latino community. The event benefits Orange County United Way Somos Familia Initiative, which supports neighborhood development activities in targeted low-income Latino communities in Orange County. Over 400 local government officials, business leaders, current and previous award recipients are expected to attend. For event information contact Rose Ratcliff at Orange County United Way (949) 263-6176.

Free Water Efficient Landscape Maintenance Class for the Residential Homeowner - Saturday, December 4 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) and the Orange County Water District (OCWD), in conjunction with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, is offering free residential landscaping classes to Orange County residents. This half-day class, called *Protector Del Aqua*, is offered to educate homeowners on water-efficient landscape design and maintenance practices. The presentation will cover basic landscape design, landscape plants, landscape sprinkler systems and landscape watering and fertilizing. The class will be held at MWDOC/OCWD Joint Board Room, 10500 Ellis Avenue in Fountain Valley. Class size is limited, and space will be filled on a first-come first-served basis. Act now to take advantage of this free opportunity to gain valuable information on residential landscaping techniques. Reserve your seat today - call Beth Fahl at (714) 593-5015.

The mission of Irvine Ranch Water District, a public agency, is to provide reliable, high quality water and sewer service in an efficient, cost effective manner and environmentally sensitive way that provides a high level of customer satisfaction.

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Pipelines

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For comments, suggestions or questions, call (949) 453-5500.

24 Hour Service (949) 453-5300

Should you discover a disruption in your water service or other problems call the IRWD 24-hour emergency line and a representative will assist you.

Visit the IRWD Web site:

www.irwd.com

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