

Don't Dump Drugs Down the Drain

If you are cleaning out your medicine cabinet and come across unwanted, unused, or expired medications (also known as pharmaceuticals), do not dispose of them by flushing them down the toilet or a sink.

Even though your physician or pharmacist might have told you in the past that this practice is acceptable, we now know that flushing medications down the toilet or sink can have adverse effects on the environment. Flushing is no longer the recommended disposal method.

Here's what you can do to help:

Take your pharmaceuticals to one of the following household hazardous waste collection centers. in Orange County:

- **Irvine** – 6411 Oak Canyon
- **Anaheim** – 1071 N. Blue Gum Street
- **Huntington Beach** – 17121 Nichols St.
- **San Juan Capistrano** – 32250 La Pata Ave.

The operating hours of these centers are Tuesdays through Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Closed on holidays and rainy days.)

It is illegal for these centers to accept certain prescription medications known as “controlled substances.” These are drugs that have a potential for addiction and/or abuse such as narcotics and tranquilizers. If you need to dispose of controlled substances, contact your local pharmacy for the nearest location to dispose of these items safely.



IRWD's Assistant General Manager Paul Cook answers questions during a bus trip of IRWD facilities. IRWD co-hosted the WasteReuse Conference, California Section in March.



How Smart Is Your Irrigation Timer?

Until recently, the watering schedules of irrigation systems controlled by automated timers could only be as smart--and efficient--as the homeowners or gardeners who programmed them. Just consider the following list of landscaping conditions which impact the scheduling and water-use efficiency of a homeowner's automated irrigation system:

- Plant types--trees, grass, flowers or shrubs?
- Plants' water needs--thirsty or drought-tolerant?
- Plants' locations--in full sun, partial sun or shade?
- Soil type--sandy, loamy or clay-like?
- Soil condition--loose or compacted?
- Soil protection--bare soil or mulched?
- Topography--plants at top, middle or bottom of a slope?

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Earthquakes: It's Best to be Prepared

Just because there hasn't been a significant earthquake in our area for some time, that doesn't mean Southern Californians should become complacent.

California is earthquake country and April has been designated as Earthquake Preparedness Month to remind us of that fact. It was in the early morning hours of April 18, 1906 that residents of San Francisco and beyond were shaken from their beds by what has been estimated to be an 8.3 earthquake. Several aftershocks and fires followed, leaving a wake of devastation.

The first 72 hours following an earthquake are critical, so you should be prepared to be self-sufficient for at least that long. A supply of stored

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IRWD Teams with Discovery Science Center on Water Education

For over 30 years, Irvine Ranch Water District has been providing water education programs in local classrooms, ensuring that students have an appreciation for the precious resource of water in arid Southern California.

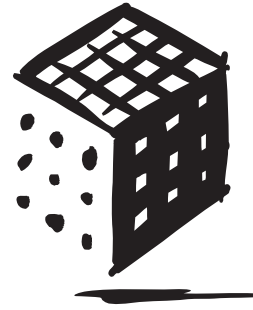
Now, IRWD is partnering with the Discovery Science Center to provide both in-school assemblies and hands-on field trips.

Programs are available free of charge to public and private schools within the IRWD service area. To schedule a program, teachers should call (714) 913-5030.

Accompanying each K-6 grade program are grade-specific educational booklets featuring IRWD's mascot, Aqua Duck.

Middle school students (grades 7-8) can take advantage of a series of three career-linked, hands-on water chemistry and environmental resources lessons. After the three teaching

sessions, the students visit IRWD on the fourth week for a field trip of the Michelson Water Reclamation Plant and the San Joaquin Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary. The students then have an opportunity to perform water quality tests in the field.



**DISCOVERY
SCIENCE CENTER**

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Earthquakes: It's Best to be Prepared

water may be your most important survival item. Several gallons of stored water per person can last two weeks.

Water should be stored in carefully cleaned, non-corrosive, tightly covered containers. Commercially bottled water is one option. Containers of heavy, opaque plastic with screw-on caps are best if you bottle your own water. All stored water should be clearly labeled and the water replenished every six months.

After a quake, tap water could be polluted. Water that is boiled for five minutes will usually be safe from contamination. If boiling is not an option, strain the water through paper towels, paper coffee filters, or several layers of clean cloth to remove any sediment. Treat the water with household liquid chlorine bleach. Add eight drops of bleach per one gallon of clear water or 16 drops if the water is cloudy. Be sure to include an eyedropper in your emergency kit.

Do not use granular forms of household bleach; they are poisonous. Mix water and bleach thoroughly and let stand for 30 minutes. Purify

only enough water at a time to last a maximum of 48 hours.

You should also learn how to shut off gas, water and electricity. To shut off the water, look for the main valve where water enters the property, usually in a concrete box near the street. Lift the cover and then use a crescent wrench to turn off the water. Some valves have a circular grip that can be turned clockwise to shut the water off and no special tools are needed. Mark the shut-off valve with fluorescent paint or tape so you can find it in the dark.

Preparation for early response to any damage that might occur is a top priority for IRWD. We have a comprehensive emergency response plan, which is routinely reviewed and revised. District employees regularly participate in emergency preparedness drills. After the 1994 Northridge quake, crews from IRWD were dispatched to assist in repairing the earthquake-damaged pipelines, which provided valuable real-world emergency response experience for many of our employees.

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How Smart Is Your Irrigation Timer?

- Water application--sprayheads, drip lines or both?
- Weather--hot, sunny, windy, foggy, rainy, cold or any combination of these?

Weather conditions are among the most crucial variables a homeowner needs to account for in irrigation scheduling. Irrigation scientists tell us the most efficient irrigation scheduling technique is to adjust your system's run times to match the actual water needs of the plants, as they are affected by the changing weather.

Today there is a new generation of "smart" irrigation controllers available to homeowners that do just this. Traditional sprinkler timers require manual adjustments every time the weather changes, but the new "smart" controllers automatically adjust the watering schedule based on local weather/site conditions. So, once the initial setup and monitoring is complete, there's no need to reset the "smart" controller; it adjusts automatically.

Depending on the make and model, "smart" controllers receive the environmental data they need from various sources. Some models use data from local weather stations or on-site sensors, while other models gather information from several weather stations linked to match the zip code and address of the installation site. Because each type has the capacity to work equally well, look for the type best suited to the unique attributes of your home's landscape.

The "smart" controller saves homeowners money by reducing their water use. Pilot studies have shown typical water savings to be in the range of 20% to 40% annually. Actual water savings will depend on how efficiently a homeowner has watered in the past.

Remember, however, that no irrigation controller, no matter how "smart," can fix physical problems with your irrigation system. Before installing a "smart" controller, make sure you don't have broken water lines or clogged or leaking spray heads or valves.

Irvine Ranch Water District has rebates available for homeowners to upgrade traditional irrigation timers to state-of-the-art "smart" irrigation controllers.

Smart Irrigation Controller rebates for single-family residential customers living in detached homes are **\$60 per activated valve** (hooked-up irrigation station). In order to participate, residential



customers must possess a fully operational automatic irrigation system on a minimum of 1200 square feet of irrigated landscape. Rebate details and an application are available at www.irwd.com or by calling 1-866-846-3725.

Owners of multi-family dwellings with common area landscaping may be eligible for a Smart Irrigation Controller rebate of **\$750 per irrigated acre**. To find out if you qualify, call the Save Water - Save A Buck program at 1-877-728-2282. Links to this information and rebate applications are also available at www.irwd.com.

Suggested Weekly Watering Schedule

Weekly Watering Schedule for SPRAY HEAD IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

APRIL

Turf grass:

2-3 days, 1-3 cycles* of 2-4 minutes each

Trees, shrubs, groundcover:

2 days, 2 cycles* of 4 minutes

Percent option: 70%**

MAY

Turf grass:

2-4 days, 2-3 cycles* of 3-4 minutes each

Trees, shrubs, groundcover:

2 days, 3 cycles* of 3 minutes

Percent option: 80%**

*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. **Spring is the most active growth period for turf grass and other plants. Be sure to water adequately.**

**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.

SHADETREE PARTNERSHIP EVENTS

- **Community service hours** are available for all volunteer tree planting activities. For more information call (949) 453-5670 or visit their Web site at www.shadetreepartnership.org. Online registration available!

SEA AND SAGE AUDUBON EVENTS

- **Sea and Sage Brunch** (Saturday, May 10; and Sunday, April 27, May 25 & June 15) The public is invited to a gourmet outdoor brunch and leisurely stroll through the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary. The brunch starts at 10 a.m. and ends at noon. This program is for adults only and requires a \$20 per person pre-paid reservation. A 48-hour cancellation notice is required for refund. Call Helen Nicholas at (949) 726-0858 if you have questions. For registration information visit their Web site at www.seaandsageaudubon.org.
- **Bat Walks** - Sea and Sage Audubon Society invites you and your friends to experience a BAT WALK at night in the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary in Irvine. The bat walks are scheduled on Friday evenings May 16, June 20, and August 22, and Thursday evenings May 22 and August 7. Two adults-only walks are scheduled for Thursday evenings June 5 and August 28. All walks will begin at 7 p.m. (may vary according to time of sunset) and end at 9 p.m. Cost is \$12 per adult and \$6 for children seven (minimum age) to 12. Call (949) 726-0858 for questions or visit their Web site at www.seaandsageaudubon.org.
- **Become a member** of the National Audubon Society and the Sea and Sage Audubon Chapter. For more information visit their Web site at www.seaandsageaudubon.org or call the Audubon House at (949) 261-7963.

CITY OF IRVINE EVENTS

- **Kids on the Green** (live theatrical productions designed to introduce young children to live theatre) at Bill Barber Park Amphitheatre, 4 Civic Center Plaza - The series highlights a selection of live performances featuring Snow White on Sat., April 26; Tales of the Ashanti on Sat., May 17; Folk Tales of Norway on Sat., May 17; and Frog Belly Rat Bone on Sat., May 24. The programs start at 10 .m. and admission is free. For more information call (949) 724-6606 or visit www.cityofirvine.org.
- **Irvine Studio Arts Festival on Saturday, June 7** from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Irvine Fine Arts Center, 14321 Yale Avenue in Irvine. For more information about this free event, visit www.irvinefinearts.org or call (949) 724-6880.
- **Friday, July 4 - Irvine Police Association's 24th Annual Concert on the Green & Fireworks Show** at Irvine High School Football Stadium. Gates open at 3 p.m. Children's activities include field games, arts and crafts; bounce house, face painting and more. Live music performance by the Derek Bordeaux Group. Color guard presentation of the colors by the Irvine Police Department Color Guard. Food Court. Pyro musical and fireworks show at 9 p.m. with historical narration. Adult tickets (14 and older) \$12, senior/child tickets (+60/13 and under) \$7. Under two free. Tickets available in advance or may be purchased at Irvine High School Football Stadium on July 4. Family tickets are available in advance only (two adults/four children) for \$40. For tickets and further information call Vince Palazzolo at (949) 724-0488.

FAMILIES FORWARD

- **Help End Summer Hunger!** This is the food drive theme for Families Forward for the spring and summer months. Donations of all types of food are needed to help stock the food bank for families in need. On Saturday, May 3 volunteers will be collecting food at local grocery stores from shoppers at the stores. Food donations may also be brought to the Families Forward facility on Saturday, May 3 at 9221 Irvine Blvd., Irvine 92618 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Food donations may be dropped off during the week - Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Individuals wishing to participate in a volunteer capacity are encouraged to call (949) 552-2727. Volunteers are key to the success of the Families Forward work with families in need.
- Families Forward exists to help families in need achieve and maintain self-sufficiency through housing, counseling, education and other support services.

ASSISTANCE LEAGUE OF IRVINE

- **Assistance League of Irvine Thrift and Gift Shop** - 17801 Main Street, Suite H (Sky Park South), Irvine, (949) 955-3437. Donations welcome during normal business hours: Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Donate your old cell phone - donate your old cell phone to Assistance League's Thrift Shop (see address and hours above).
- To learn more about Assistance League and membership call (949) 725-9188 or visit their Web site at www.irvine.assistanceleague.org. Assistance League of Irvine is a nonprofit volunteer organization dedicated to providing programs and services that will enrich and improve the quality of life in Irvine.



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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**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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