

# pipelines

## DROUGHT WATCH



NOVEMBER 2015 | NUMBER 11

## 2015 Landscape Makeover Contest Winners

Nearly 700 IRWD customers participated in the first ever IRWD Landscape Makeover Contest. Three customers with the highest percentage reduction in water use were crowned as winners, while a fourth customer won a bonus prize for saving the most gallons of water overall. Winners reduced their three-month water consumption by 66 to 80 percent compared to the same period last year. Each winner has been notified and will receive a new drought-tolerant landscape valued at up to \$6,000. Thank you to all of our customers who participated. More than nine million gallons of water was saved overall!

### What are some of the actions the winners took to slash water use at their homes?

- Reduced outdoor water use
- Let grass go brown
- Cut outdoor watering to once per week
- Fixed leaks
- Took shorter showers
- Used sink and shower water for irrigation
- Flushed toilets less often
- Ran full loads of laundry
- Used shower water to flush toilets
- Relocated plants to be in groups with similar watering needs



Hassan Movahedi waters a plant using water from his shower. His family saved 58,000 gallons.



Clenubia Dalvi adjusts the timer on her irrigation controller. Her household reduced water use by 79%.

### In This Issue:

- Designing Your Water-Efficient Garden
- Fall Back for Water Efficiency
- Be On Alert for Fake IRWD Employees
- Keep Grease Out of Drains
- Toilet Rebate Events

## Save the Date

### Designing Your Water-Efficient Garden

Saturday, November 14  
9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Irvine Ranch Water District  
15600 Sand Canyon Ave.  
Irvine 92618

Come learn about how to choose the right plants, mock up a landscape design, and get started on having the most water-efficient RightScope™ on the block!

Sign up required:  
[irwd.com/events](http://irwd.com/events)

## Fall Back for Water Efficiency

Daylight saving time ended on Sunday, November 1. The semi-annual time change coincides with seasonal changes in weather, when irrigation controllers and sprinkler times should be adjusted down or turned off.

Water use needs decrease as the weather cools, so it's a good idea to check your controller at the same time you change your clocks. To ensure that your system is operating correctly, you should also change the batteries in your controllers.



# Be On Alert for Fake IRWD Employees

If someone knocks on your door claiming to be an IRWD employee or contractor, don't be afraid to ask for their identification. If you ever have any doubts about the person at your home, contact IRWD at 949-453-5300 in order to verify their identity.

Other things to keep in mind:

- All IRWD employees carry photo ID badges and must show them on request.
- IRWD **will never** attempt to sell you any goods or services.
- IRWD employees and contractors will not show up to your home without an appointment, except for emergencies, service shut ons/off and meter repair or replacement.

For more information, visit [irwd.com](http://irwd.com) or call 949-453-5300.



Examples of IRWD employee uniforms, ID badge and District vehicles.

## Avoid Holiday Meal Headaches: Keep Grease Out of Drains

Cooking grease poured down the drain from the preparation of holiday turkeys, roasts and hams is a leading cause of sewage spills this time of year.

Over time, the grease sticks to the sewer pipes, building up and eventually clogging the entire pipe, resulting in costly cleanups and repairs.

Here are some tips for getting rid of left over cooking grease:

- Put leftover grease in containers with lids, such as jars, then place into a trash receptacle for pick up on trash day.
- Mix oils with absorbent materials, such as coffee grounds, put in a container with a lid and dispose with the trash.
- When cleaning a greasy pan, pour grease into a container and wipe excess grease from the pan with paper towels. Place the towels into the trash.
- After using a deep fat fryer, mix oils with absorbent material, such as cat litter, or soak up excess oil with newspaper and put into trash.



For more information about the FOG program, visit [irwd.com/fog](http://irwd.com/fog).

## Save the Date

### Niagara Stealth Toilet Rebate Events

**Saturday, November 7**  
8 a.m. – 12 p.m.  
**The Home Depot**  
20021 Lake Forest Rd.  
Lake Forest

**Saturday, November 14**  
8 a.m. – 12 p.m.  
**The Home Depot**  
6200 Irvine Blvd.  
Irvine



Use the \$150 IRWD rebate on toilets to score your water-efficient Niagara Stealth toilet at this event.

**Rebate information is available at**  
[rightscapenow.com/rebates](http://rightscapenow.com/rebates).

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[youtube.com/IrvineRanchWD](http://youtube.com/IrvineRanchWD)

**24-Hour Customer Service:** 949-453-5300

**Email:** [customerservice@irwd.com](mailto:customerservice@irwd.com)

**Address:** 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine, CA 92618

**Website:** [irwd.com](http://irwd.com)

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