

Mulch Madness!

Go crazy with mulch this season and get 50% off your purchase, saving water and money.

IRWD.com/MulchMadness

pipelines

FEBRUARY 2023



Irvine Ranch
Water District

Save the date

Don't Spring a Leak

In-person workshop
Saturday, March 11
9 – 11:30 a.m.

Learn how to track down and repair leaks in your home and irrigation system in this hands-on event. Light refreshments will be served.

Sign-up required:
IRWD.com/events

IRWD Community Tour

In-person tour
Friday, March 24
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Join us for presentations and a tour of our Michelson Water Recycling Plant, and learn about IRWD environmental stewardship as you stroll along the paths and ponds of our San Joaquin Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary.

Sign-up required:
IRWD.com/events

Best tasting water in the Southwest!

IRWD has once again secured the title of “best tasting water” in a blind taste test by the region’s top water professionals.

The Southwest Membrane Operator Association awarded top honors to IRWD’s Irvine Desalter Plant for the category of Best Tasting Membrane Water for 2022. It was the second victory for the plant, which also clinched the title in 2018. Our Baker Water Treatment Plant earned runner-up status in 2019.



The Irvine Desalter Plant uses reverse osmosis, decarbonization and disinfection to remove salts occurring naturally in five of the District’s wells in Irvine. It treats up to 1.6 billion gallons of drinking water each year—enough to serve 50,000 people.

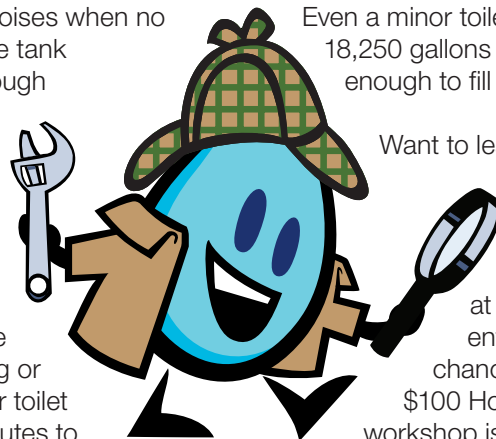
To learn more about how IRWD ensures your drinking water is clean, tasty and high-quality, visit IRWD.com/water-quality.

Learn to be a leak detective

Does your toilet make noises when no one is around? Does the tank constantly refill even though no one has flushed it?

If so, you have evidence of a leak.

A faulty flapper is the No. 1 cause of most toilet leaks. To investigate, put a couple of drops of food coloring or a toilet dye tablet in your toilet tank and wait a few minutes to see if the color seeps into the bowl. If it does, it’s time for a new flapper.



Even a minor toilet leak can waste up to 18,250 gallons in a single year. That’s enough to fill a swimming pool!

Want to learn more about how to check for leaks around your home? Attend IRWD’s fifth annual Don’t Spring a Leak Workshop at 9 a.m., March 11, and/or enter the sweepstakes for a chance to win prizes including a \$100 Home Depot gift card. The workshop is in person this year. Register at IRWD.com/events.

What to do with kitchen grease

Pouring fats, oils and grease down drains can cause serious problems with pipes and sewer systems. But what's the alternative?

Is grease considered trash, or organic compost material? That all depends on your local waste hauler's processing facilities.

Residents of Irvine should store grease in a closed container and throw it in the trash, according to Waste Management recommendations. In Lake Forest, Costa Mesa, Tustin, Newport Beach and Orange, it should be absorbed in a paper towel or cooled and wrapped in newspaper and disposed of in your organics or yard waste container, according to CR&R guidelines.

For more information, or to find out what to do in unincorporated parts of the county, please check with your local waste hauler.



Q: How do I report graffiti or tagging on an IRWD facility near my home?

A: IRWD has a graffiti hotline at **949-453-5535** to help us stay on top of tagging and other problems before they spread.

We encourage customers to call this number to report graffiti and other nuisances at our facilities. Our goal is to address the situation promptly, and reports from the public help.

When you call, be sure to note the location, including the street, intersection and address, if possible.

Describe the surface the graffiti is on (block wall, pipe, etc.) and the type of paint or marker that was used. This will help our crews respond with the cleaning tools they need.

Also please provide your name and contact information so we can reach out if our crew has questions or can't find the problem.

Got a question? Email info@IRWD.com with "Ask Customer Service" as the subject line.

Ask Juan



Q: Juan, I live in a condo and have a small planter that gets sun all day. Do you have any eco-friendly ideas or tips for that area?

A: Hi. What about a pollinator garden? Creating a habitat—even a small one—that attracts and supports hummingbirds, bees, butterflies, and other beneficial insects is an eco-friendly way to use your planter. Providing shelter, food and nesting sites for pollinators is a great way to show your love for the

environment. Plant a mix of local California native plants that flower in the day and night, as well as early- and late-blooming varieties. Also, don't forget to plant some larval hosts such as milkweed. The California Native Plant Society provides helpful information at CNPS.org.

Got landscape questions? Email AskJuan@IRWD.com or ask on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram with [#irwdcommunity](https://www.facebook.com/irwdcommunity). See past answers at [RightScape.com/landscape-resources/ask-juan](https://www.rightscape.com/landscape-resources/ask-juan).

California native corner

Juan's February plant: California coffeeberry

California coffeeberry (*Frangula californica*) is a hardy evergreen shrub found throughout California up to southwest Oregon. Its dense, leathery, dark-green foliage contrasts well against its dark red branches. The nectar from its spring blooms supports beneficial insects such as the swallowtail butterfly, and its prized berries are highly sought by local birds and animals. Learn more at CalScape.org and CalScape.org/planting-guide.php. — Juan

