

New landscape design rebate

Customers looking to replace their lawn with something better can apply for a design rebate, too!

Learn more at IRWD.com/turfrebate.

pipelines

AUGUST 2025



Irvine Ranch
Water District



Want a lower water bill? Follow these tips for smarter water use

You already limit your shower time and turn off the faucet while brushing your teeth. But you're still wondering how you can get a lower water bill.

Don't worry. When it comes to sleuthing out the finer details of water savings, which is how you can reduce your water bill, IRWD has a treasure trove of tools to help. Just visit IRWD.com/savewater — where you can learn how to check for leaks, set your irrigation timer and even test your skills with our online quiz.

Most water waste occurs outdoors, from leaks or overwatering. Take the guesswork out of setting your timer at IRWD.com/wateringguide or do your own landscape checkup at IRWD.com/checklist.

IRWD also offers indoor and outdoor rebates and programs to help. Want someone to repair your sprinklers? We'll cover half the cost at IRWD.com/sprinklerrepair. You can also get half off bulk mulch purchases at IRWD.com/mulchmadness. Go to IRWD.com/rebates for a full list of offerings.

If you're still stumped, email our experts at WaterEfficiency@IRWD.com. They'll guide you through our customer education portal. And if you still have a problem, they can give you individualized assistance.



IRWD water efficiency experts can assess your home water use to help you better conserve resources.

Save the date

Community Tour

Sunday, Sept. 7
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Get a firsthand look at how IRWD transforms your shower water into recycled water for irrigation and other purposes.

Sign-up required:
IRWD.com/events

Construction in your neighborhood



With more than 4,200 miles of water, sewer and recycled water pipelines — plus all the treatment plants, wells, pumps, reservoir tanks and other infrastructure needed for operations — IRWD is continually working on its water and sewer distribution systems to serve our community.

To keep customers informed of planned construction projects, we distribute notices, post construction updates on our website and are available to answer calls regarding any of our scheduled projects.

Want to learn more? For more information, please visit IRWD.com/constructionprojects or call 949-453-5500.

Number of certified WaterStar businesses continues to grow

IRWD's WaterStar program recognizes local businesses and restaurants for responsible water use. We're proud to welcome four new members from Irvine, Lake Forest and Newport Beach.

How do they prove they're WaterStars every day?



Newport Beach Marriott Bayview
waters with weather-based controllers and designed surrounding landscape with water-efficient plants.



Holiday Inn Express & Suites – Lake Forest
installed new water-efficient showerheads in all 60 guest rooms.



Il Fornaio Irvine's
kitchen and restrooms feature water-efficient appliances, including faucets and toilets.



Javier's Cantina
uses water-efficient equipment and appliances throughout its restaurant and common spaces.

Certified WaterStars regularly follow sustainable practices, reducing water use by at least 20%. Learn more at IRWD.com/waterstar.

Ask Juan



Q: Juan, what are some decorative plants I can use to replace my lawn?

A: Some of my favorites include yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) and various types of manzanita (*Arctostaphylos*) like emerald carpet or Point Reyes, which grows in dense mats. California lilac (*Ceanothus griseus horizontalis*) provides lovely blue flowers and quick coverage. Other non-native choices include dymondia

(*Dymondia margaretae*), a tough, low-profile mat perfect for foot traffic, and creeping thyme (*Thymus serpyllum*), which releases a pleasant fragrance when walked upon. Trailing rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*) also offers evergreen texture and culinary uses. All these alternatives thrive in Orange County's climate with very little water.

Got landscape questions? Email askjuan@IRWD.com.

California native corner Juan's August plant: Coyote mint

Coyote mint (*Monardella villosa*) is a wonderful perennial herb that blooms in the summer with showy ball-shaped lavender flowers. It has fragrant mint-scented foliage and attracts a variety of pollinators with its nectar-rich blooms. It thrives in well-drained soil in dry, full sun conditions and needs only a little water in summer.



Q: I just moved here from out of state and am seeing water spots on my dishes. Is that normal?

A: Hardness in water is caused by naturally occurring minerals, such as calcium and magnesium. The level of hardness depends very much on where your water comes from.

Southern California typically experiences harder water due to its geology and dependence on groundwater and imported water sources. Those minerals, which are essential to health and give water its taste, can leave deposits on dishes and faucets. Those are the spots you are seeing. To remove them, be sure to use the recommended rinse aid for your dishwasher, and use a vinegar solution to wipe away spots.

Got a question? Email CustomerService@IRWD.com.

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