

Take the mystery out of watering

Follow our schedule at IRWD.com/wateringguide to keep your yard green without wasting blue.

pipelines

NOVEMBER 2025



Irvine Ranch
Water District

California buckwheat

Tips for a clog-free holiday

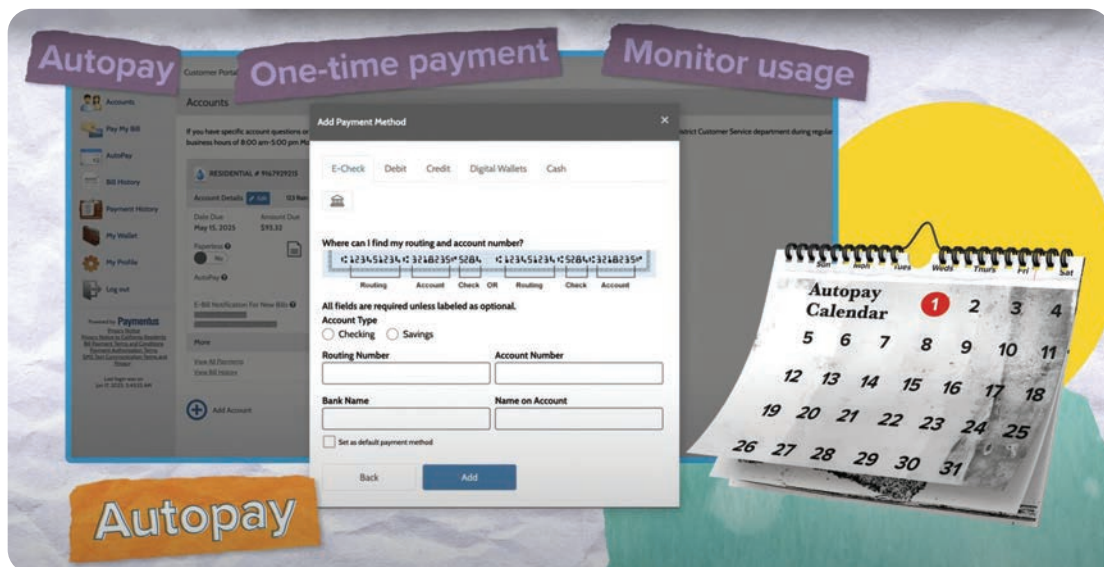
It's inevitable: If you pour your fats, oils and grease down your kitchen drain, you will eventually wind up with a stopped-up sink.

Clogs are more likely during the holidays, when lavish meal preparation and cleanup can turn any happy gathering into a plumbing fiasco.

Here's how to keep a clogged drain from spoiling your celebration:

- Pour used cooking oil, grease and unused creams and sauces into a container, let them cool, and dispose of the container according to the guidelines of your city.
- Wipe greasy pots and pans with a paper towel before washing.
- Put all food scraps, including coffee grounds, eggshells and potato peelings in your organics recycling bin or compost them.

Visit IRWD.com/services/sewer for more information.



Videos make money matters easy

Calling all visual learners! If you're like us and prefer to see something in action before you make it happen, we've got the perfect set of videos for you.

Our how-to series started with checking for leaks inside and outside your home. Now, it includes Customer Service-related topics such as:

- How to pay your water bill online
- How to request an indoor water budget variance
- How to read your bill
- How to request an outdoor water budget variance

A variance, which can be requested when changes to your household affect your water needs, can help save money and keep you on budget.

To watch the series on YouTube, go to IRWD.com/howtoseries.



All smiles at H₂O Show & Tell

Nearly 700 people attended IRWD's third annual open house last month. Hands-on activities, science experiments, drone demonstrations, heavy construction equipment and elaborate pipeline displays illustrated all that we do to get your water to you. See more photos at IRWD.com/h2o.

Our newest WaterStar restaurants

IRWD's WaterStar program recognizes local businesses for sustainable practices and responsible water use. These industry leaders care about the community, and we're thrilled to welcome three new restaurants to our growing roster:



Bear Flag Fish Co. is a high-end sustainable fish market serving fresh catches daily in Newport Beach.



Robata Wasa is a casual Japanese restaurant in Irvine serving sushi and sake in an open-style kitchen.



Kalbi Social Club is an upscale Korean barbecue restaurant in the Irvine Spectrum Center.

These certified WaterStars use water-efficient appliances every day as part of their regular operations, including high-efficiency dishwashers, ice machines and faucets. Their efforts help reduce overall water usage by at least 20%.

Visit [IRWD.com/waterstar](https://www.irwd.com/waterstar) for more information.

Ask Juan



Q: Hi Juan. My Western redbud is really overgrown. Do you have any pruning tips?

A: Sounds like your tree's going for the wild look. The best time to tame it is in winter, before spring growth kicks in. That way, it heals quickly and comes back strong. Just don't go overboard. Sloppy pruning can mess up its shape and cause problems down the road. Focus on trimming dead, damaged, or crowded

branches. When you prune, think about thinning out rather than heading back. Thinning removes entire branches to open the canopy, while heading back just shortens them. Thinning is usually better for the tree's health and structure. Done right, pruning keeps your tree thriving and looking sharp.

Send your landscape questions to askjuan@IRWD.com or ask on Facebook, X or Instagram with [#irwdcommunity](https://www.instagram.com/irwdcommunity).

California native corner

Juan's November plant: bush poppy

Bush poppy (*Dendromecon rigida*) is a vigorous evergreen shrub native to Southern and Baja California, producing brilliant, fragrant yellow blooms in winter and spring. Bush poppy sustains caterpillars, butterflies, bees and other beneficial insects. Once established, it can do with little to no water. Learn more at calscape.org/selecting-native-plants.



Q: What rebates do you offer, and how do I apply?

A: Whether you're looking to upgrade to a high-efficiency clothes washer (\$85 rebate) or convert your yard to drip irrigation (\$1 per square foot), we offer indoor and outdoor rebates that will save you money and water — and keep your water bill low.

Get started at [IRWD.com/rebates](https://www.irwd.com/rebates) and select whether you're looking for residential or commercial rebates.

Many of the rebates listed are administered in partnership with other agencies. IRWD supplements their rebate amounts to match the higher amounts listed on our webpage.

For information on the Sprinkler Repair Program, which covers half the cost of qualified repairs, go to [IRWD.com/sprinklerrepair](https://www.irwd.com/sprinklerrepair).

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