



## Spring/Summer Newsletter | 2024

### Water Conservation Tips

#### General Maintenance

- **Locate your master water shut off valve.** Also, remember to locate your master water shut off valve at your hose bib – mark it for quick identification. If a water pipe were to break, it could cause flooding and tremendous water loss.
- **Check for leaks in pipes, hoses, hose connections, and faucets.** Even a tiny leak can translate into thousands of gallons of waste water over a short period of time. Repair or replace any equipment leaking water immediately.
- **Use shut-off nozzles on hoses.** Use nozzles which completely turn off the water when you are not using it; they also help to more effectively direct water than using your finger to create a stream.

#### Prioritizing Water Usage

- **Prioritize your Spring/Summer watering needs outdoors.** Now is a great time for you to prioritize the watering needs of all outdoor plants and trees. Take the time to determine which area of your yard needs the most water.
- **Newly planted trees, shrubs and lawns should receive the priority when it comes to determining the need for water.** On automatic sprinkler systems, install a moisture sensor, which will automatically cut off the system if it should begin to rain. It is best to water early in the morning when temperatures and wind speed are the lowest. This reduces losses from evaporation. Mulching also reduces losses from evaporation and keeps the soil and roots cool.
- **Young Trees and Shrubs** do not have as developed root systems as their older counterparts and will require more water as a result. During severe drought conditions, plants and trees up to six years of age may require additional watering during this time.
- **Flowers, Gardens, and Older Plants** - Most early spring flower and vegetable gardens will require watering to stay productive. Mulching can help to retain additional moisture in the soil and around the roots. Most well-established trees and shrubs can withstand a prolonged period without rain or watering. Far more plants die from over-watering than under-watering. For many garden plants, the best way to know if plants need water is to let your finger be the guide. Dig down several inches near the base of the plant. If the soil is bone dry,



#### NEWS AND INFO:

On January 2, 2024, we moved to a new location next to Rancho Sahuarita Self Storage and RV. Our new address is 14125 S Rancho Sahuarita Blvd.





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### Water Conservation Tips (Continued)

- **Capture and recycle rainwater and Redirect water from downspouts.** Place rain barrels or buckets beneath your downspouts. 1,000 sq. ft. of roof surface will collect 420 gallons of water in every inch of rainfall. You can use rainwater for outdoor plants and trees or to wash your car. Channel storm water across lawns and into garden beds away from your house; consider "Rainscaping" by establishing a watershed-friendly garden, which will use storm water to thrive and create beauty around your home, school, or office.

- **Mulch, Mulch, Mulch.** Mulching helps to slow the evaporation of moisture from the soil and keeps the soil and roots cool. It also protects the soil and roots from events such as freezing. Try to stick with organic mulches that slowly break down and add organic matter to the soil.

#### Indoor Wise Water Use Ideas

- **Check pipes and faucets for leaks.** Even small leaks can waste significant amounts of water. Water leaks are not only a waste of water, but also of the energy needed to heat the water.

- **Turn off the water when brushing teeth or shaving.** This is a hard habit to break. We are all guilty of letting the water run while we brush our teeth. Yet, collectively we could save thousands of gallons of water a day if we just turned off the faucet until we need it.

- **Take showers instead of baths.** Baths use more water than a typical shower. If your shower has a single hand control or shut off valve, turn off the flow while soaping or shampooing. Also install low flow showerheads and faucet aerators.

- **Check the toilet for leaks.** Leaks inside a toilet can waste up to 200 gallons of water per day. Toilet leaks can be detected by taking the tank cover off and placing several drops of food coloring in the tank. You have a leak if you see the coloring in the bowl after a few minutes. Most leaks involve the rubber flapper or shut off valve found in the tank. Repair as soon as possible.

- **Run the dishwasher and washing machine only when full.** Practice wise water techniques by making the most of the water that you use. Also use the garbage disposal less to conserve water.

- **Fill the sink with water to pre-rinse dishes before putting them in the dishwasher.** This is a great way to conserve water. You are not only saving water by eliminating the process of rinsing dishes before you place them in the dishwasher, but also reducing the load on your dishwasher (and perhaps preventing dishes from being washed again).

### Utility Assistance Available:

If you need help paying your water bill, you may qualify for utility assistance.

To determine if you are eligible, please call the Pima County Community Action Agency at (520) 791-5443. For further information, visit [www.pima.gov](http://www.pima.gov).

