



2016

Water Quality Report

The City of Westminster Water Conservation Demonstration Garden

Our second demonstration garden, located in the neighborhood directly behind the Walmart/Costco shopping center at the corner of Benton & Jasperson, is the newest Water Conservation Garden and features an assortment of drought-tolerant plants as well as hardscape designs residents can use to conserve water, save money and create a beautiful yard.

DATA FOR 2015

Your 2016 Water Quality Report

Since 1990, California public water utilities have been providing an annual Water Quality Report to their customers. **This year's report covers all drinking water quality testing performed in calendar year 2015.**

The City of Westminster Water Division vigilantly safeguards its water supply and, as in years past, the water delivered to your home meets the quality standards required by federal and state regulatory agencies. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (SWRCB) are the agencies responsible for establishing and enforcing drinking water quality standards.

In some cases, the City goes beyond what is required by testing for unregulated constituents that may have known health risks but do not have drinking water standards. In addition, the Orange County Water District (OCWD), which manages the groundwater basin, and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

(MWDCS), which supplies imported treated surface water to the City, test for unregulated constituents in our water supply. Unregulated constituent monitoring helps USEPA and SWRCB determine where certain constituents occur and whether new standards need to be established for those constituents.

Through drinking water quality compliance testing programs carried out by OCWD for groundwater, MWDCS for treated surface water, and the Westminster Water Division for the water production and distribution system, your drinking water is constantly monitored from source to tap for regulated and unregulated constituents.

The State allows Westminster to monitor for some

contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old.



This report contains important information about your drinking water. Translate it, or speak with someone who understands it.

يحتوي هذا التقرير على معلومات هامة عن نوعية ماء الشرب في منطقتك. يرجى ترجمته، أو ابحث التقرير مع صديق لك يفهم هذه المعلومات جيدا.

Arabic

이 보고서에는 귀하가 거주하는 지역의 수질에 관한 중요한 정보가 들어 있습니다. 이것을 번역하거나 충분히 이해하시는 친구와 상의하십시오.

Korean

这份报告中有些重要的信息，讲到关于您所在社区的水的品质。请您找人翻译一下，或者请能看得懂这份报告的朋友给您解释一下。

Chinese

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Para más información ó traducción, favor de contactar a Mr. Willie Cobar. Teléfono: (714) 548-3685.

Spanish

この資料には、あなたの飲料水についての大切な情報が書かれています。内容をよく理解するために、日本語に翻訳して読むか説明を受けてください。

Japanese

Bản báo cáo có ghi những chi tiết quan trọng về phẩm chất nước trong cộng đồng quý vị. Hãy nhờ người thông dịch, hoặc hỏi một người bạn biết rõ về vấn đề này.

Vietnamese

Questions about your water? Contact us for answers.

For information about this report, or your water quality in general, please contact Paul Kalix at (714) 548-3699. To find out about opportunities to participate in public meetings, contact the Westminster City Clerk's office at (714) 898-3311. The City Council meets every second and fourth Wednesday in the Council Chambers at 8200 Westminster Boulevard. We are also reachable by mail at the City of Westminster Water Division, 14381 Olive Street, Westminster, California 92683.

For more information about the health effects of the listed contaminants in the following tables, call the USEPA hotline at (800) 426-4791.

The Quality of Your Water is Our Primary Concern

Sources of Supply

The City of Westminster's water supply is a blend of groundwater managed by the Orange County Water District (OCWD) and water imported from Northern California and the Colorado River. Imported water is purchased from MWDSC by the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC), who distributes it to water agencies in Orange County. Groundwater comes from a natural underground aquifer that is replenished with water from the Santa Ana River, local rainfall, and imported water. The groundwater basin is 350 square miles and lies beneath north and central Orange County from Irvine to the Los Angeles border, and from Yorba Linda to the Pacific Ocean.

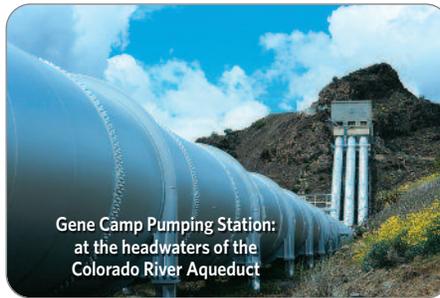
Westminster has 10 groundwater wells located throughout the City and three import water connections. Last year, on average, 80% of our drinking water was produced from our wells and 20% was imported.

Orange County's Water Future

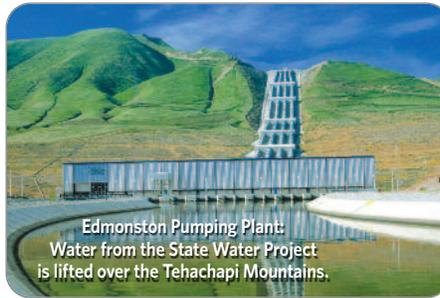
For years, Orange County has enjoyed an abundant, seemingly endless supply of high-quality water. However, as water demand continues to increase statewide, we must be even more conscientious about our water supply and maximize the efficient use of this precious natural resource.

OCWD and MWDOC work cooperatively to evaluate new and innovative water management and supply development programs, including water reuse and recycling, wetlands expansion, recharge facility construction, ocean and brackish water desalination, surface storage and water use efficiency programs. These efforts are helping to enhance long-term countywide water reliability and water quality.

Westminster would consider future participation in the Ocean Water Desalination Program if costs of program participation and costs of water supplied by the Program were comparable to that of groundwater or imported water. More information from OCWD and MWDOC would be needed to determine how Westminster could be incorporated into the regional water system used for the delivery of desalinated water.



Gene Camp Pumping Station:
at the headwaters of the
Colorado River Aqueduct



Edmonston Pumping Plant:
Water from the State Water Project
is lifted over the Tehachapi Mountains.

Basic Information About Drinking Water Contaminants

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of land or through the layers of the ground it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animal and human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
- **Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining and farming.
- **Radioactive contaminants** can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production or mining activities.
- **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gasoline stations, urban storm water runoff, agricultural application and septic systems.
- **Pesticides and herbicides** may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff and residential uses.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, USEPA and the SWRCB prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. SWRCB regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Information the EPA Would Like You to Know

About Lead in Tap Water

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing.



The City of Westminster Water Division is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home.

When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking.

If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested.

Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at: www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Chloramines

The City of Westminster imports treated drinking water from MWDSC. Metropolitan treats its filtered surface water with chloramines, which are chemical disinfectants formed by combining chlorine with ammonia. Chloramines are effective killers of microscopic organisms that may cause disease and chloramines also help prevent

re-growth of bacteria in the City's distribution system. Chloramines form fewer disinfection byproducts than other disinfectants and have no odor when properly used.

People who use kidney dialysis machines may want to take special precautions and consult their physician for the appropriate type of water treatment.

Customers who maintain fish ponds, tanks or aquariums should also make necessary adjustments in water quality treatment as these chloramines are toxic to fish.

For further information or if you have any questions about chloramines, please call Paul Kalix at (714) 548-3699.



Immuno-Compromised People

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population.

Immuno-compromised people, such as those with cancer who are undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have had organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly persons, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.

USEPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

How to Read Your Residential Water Meter

Your water meter is usually located between the sidewalk and curb under a cement cover.

Remove the cover by inserting a screwdriver in the hole in the lid and then carefully lift the cover.

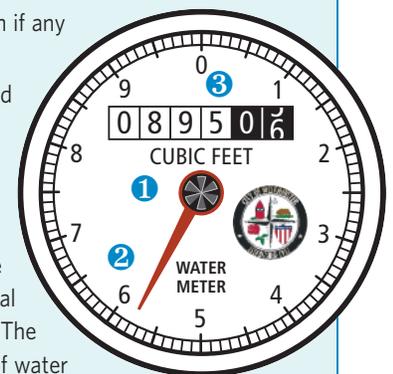
The meter reads straight across, like the odometer on your car. Read only the white numbers (0895).

If you are trying to determine if you have a leak, turn off all the water in your home, both indoor and outdoor faucets, and then check the red or black triangular dial for any movement of the low-flow indicator. If there is movement, that indicates a leak between the meter and your plumbing system.

❶ **Low-Flow Indicator** — The low flow indicator will spin if any water is flowing through the meter.

❷ **Sweep Hand** — Each full revolution of the sweep hand indicates that one cubic foot of water (7.48 gallons) has passed through the meter. The markings at the outer edge of the dial indicate tenths and hundredths of one cubic foot.

❸ **Meter Register** — The meter register is a lot like the odometer on your car. The numbers keep a running total of all the water that has passed through the meter. The register shown here indicates that 89,505 cubic feet of water has passed through this meter.



2015 City of Westminster Drinking Water Quality Local Groundwater and Metropolitan Water District Treated Surface Water

Constituent	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Avg. Groundwater Amount	Avg. Imported MWD Amount	Range of Detections	MCL Violation?	Typical Source in Drinking Water
Radiologicals – Tested in 2014							
Alpha Radiation (pCi/L)	15	(0)	ND	ND	ND – 4	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Beta Radiation (pCi/L)	50	(0)	NR	5	4 – 6	No	Decay of Man-made or Natural Deposits
Uranium (pCi/L)	20	0.43	5.01	3	1.04 – 9.96	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Inorganic Constituents – Tested in 2015							
Aluminum (ppm)	1	0.6	ND	0.155	ND – 0.24	No	Treatment Process Residue, Natural Deposits
Arsenic (ppb)	10	0.004	0.49	2.3	ND – 4.9	No	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Barium (ppm)	1	2	<0.1	0.125	ND – 0.125	No	Refinery Discharge, Erosion of Natural Deposits
Fluoride (ppm) treatment-related*	Control Range 0.6 – 1.2 ppm Optimal Level 0.7 ppm		NR	0.8	0.6 – 1.0	No	Water Additive for Dental Health
Fluoride (ppm) naturally-occurring	2	1	0.5	NR	0.43 – 0.68	No	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Chromium, Hexavalent (ppb)	10	0.02	<1	ND	ND – 1.5	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Nitrate (ppm as N)	10	10	1.32	ND	ND – 2.62	No	Agriculture Runoff and Sewage
Nitrate+Nitrite (ppm as N)	10	10	1.32	ND	ND – 2.62	No	Agriculture Runoff and Sewage
Secondary Standards* – Tested in 2015							
Aluminum (ppb)	200*	600	ND	155	ND – 240	No	Treatment Process Residue, Natural Deposits
Chloride (ppm)	500*	n/a	35.7	100	11.5 – 101	No	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Color (color units)	15*	n/a	ND	1	ND – 1	No	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Manganese (ppb)	50*	n/a	2.23	ND	ND – 22.3	No	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Odor (threshold odor number)	3*	n/a	ND	2	ND – 2	No	Naturally-occurring Organic Materials
Specific Conductance (µmho/cm)	1,600*	n/a	607	1,040	403 – 1,040	No	Substances that Form Ions in Water
Sulfate (ppm)	500*	n/a	81.1	257	34.9 – 261	No	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	1,000*	n/a	374	663	278 – 680	No	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	5*	n/a	<0.1	ND	ND – 0.2	No	Soil Runoff
Unregulated Constituents – Tested in 2013, 2014 and 2015							
Alkalinity, total (ppm as CaCO ₃)	Not Regulated	n/a	180	126	120 – 234	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Boron (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	<0.1	0.12	ND – 0.12	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Calcium (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	72.7	78	37.5 – 139	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Chlorate (ppb)	Not Regulated	n/a	54	53	ND – 140	n/a	Byproduct of Drinking Water Chlorination
Chromium, Hexavalent (ppb)**	10	0.02	0.89	0.07	0.03 – 1.5	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Chromium, Total (ppb)***	50	(100)	0.77	< 0.2	ND – 1.3	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Hardness, total (ppm as CaCO ₃)	Not Regulated	n/a	233	303	124 – 446	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Magnesium (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	12.4	27	7.4 – 27	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Molybdenum, Total (ppb)	Not Regulated	n/a	5.6	4.7	3.8 – 7	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
pH (pH units)	Not Regulated	n/a	8	8.1	7.8 – 8.2	n/a	Hydrogen Ion Concentration
Potassium (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	2.9	4.9	2 – 5	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Sodium (ppm)	Not Regulated	n/a	35.2	101	31.6 – 104	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Strontium, Total (ppb)	Not Regulated	n/a	600	930	430 – 1,100	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	TT	n/a	<0.3	2.6	ND – 2.7	n/a	Various Natural and Man-made Sources
Vanadium, Total (ppb)	Not Regulated	n/a	3.1	2.8	1.4 – 4.3	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits

ppb = parts-per-billion; ppm = parts-per-million; pCi/L = picoCuries per liter; NTU = nephelometric turbidity units; µmho/cm = micromhos per centimeter; NR = Not Required to be analyzed; ND = not detected; < = average is less than the detection limit for reporting purposes; MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level; (MCLG) = federal MCL Goal; PHG = California Public Health Goal; NL = Notification Level; n/a = not applicable; TT = treatment technique *Constituent is regulated by a secondary standard.

**Hexavalent chromium was also included as part of the unregulated constituents requiring monitoring.

***Total chromium is regulated with an MCL of 50 ppb but was not detected, based on the detection limit for purposes of reporting of 10 ppb. Total chromium was included as part of the unregulated constituents requiring monitoring.

Turbidity – combined filter effluent Metropolitan Water District Diemer Filtration Plant	Treatment Technique	Turbidity Measurements	TT Violation?	Typical Source in Drinking Water
1) Highest single turbidity measurement	0.3 NTU	0.04	No	Soil Runoff
2) Percentage of samples less than 0.3 NTU	95%	100%	No	Soil Runoff

Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water, an indication of particulate matter, some of which might include harmful microorganisms. Low turbidity in Metropolitan's treated water is a good indicator of effective filtration. Filtration is called a "treatment technique" (TT). A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of constituents in drinking water that are difficult and sometimes impossible to measure directly.

Chart Legend

What are Water Quality Standards?

Drinking water standards established by USEPA and SWRCB set limits for substances that may affect consumer health or aesthetic qualities of drinking water. The chart in this report shows the following types of water quality standards:

- **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the PHGs (or MCLGs) as is economically and technologically feasible.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
- **Secondary MCLs** are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.

- **Primary Drinking Water Standard:** MCLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements and water treatment requirements.
- **Regulatory Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

How are Contaminants Measured?

Water is sampled and tested throughout the year. Contaminants are measured in:

- parts per million (ppm) or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
- parts per billion (ppb) or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
- parts per trillion (ppt) or nanograms per liter (ng/L)

What is a Water Quality Goal?

In addition to mandatory water quality standards, USEPA and SWRCB have set voluntary water quality goals for some contaminants.

Water quality goals are often set at such low levels that they are not achievable in practice and are not directly measurable. Nevertheless, these goals provide useful guideposts and direction for water management practices. The chart in this report includes three types of water quality goals:

- **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs are set by USEPA.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- **Public Health Goal (PHG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHGs are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency.

2015 City of Westminster Distribution System Water Quality

Aesthetic Quality	MCL (MRDL/MRDLG)	Average Amount	Range of Detections	MCL Violation?	Typical Source in Drinking Water
Odor (thresholdodor number)	3*	0.9	ND – 1	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	5*	ND	ND – 0.6	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits

Disinfection Byproducts**

Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	80	22	ND – 40	No	Byproducts of Chlorine Disinfection
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	60	11	ND – 31	No	Byproducts of Chlorine Disinfection
Chlorine Residual (ppm)	(4 / 4)	0.77	ND – 2.9	No	Disinfectant Added for Treatment

Eight locations in the distribution system are tested quarterly for disinfection byproducts; fifteen locations are tested monthly for color, odor and turbidity. MRDL = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level; MRDLG = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal *Constituent is regulated by a secondary standard to maintain aesthetic qualities. Color was not detected in 2015. **Disinfection Byproducts average values are based on a locational running annual average.

Bacterial Quality	MCL	MCLG	Highest Monthly Percent Positives	MCL Violation?	Typical Source of Contaminant
Total Coliform Bacteria	5%	0	0.9%	No	Naturally present in the environment

No more than 5% of the monthly samples may be positive for total coliform bacteria. The occurrence of 2 consecutive total coliform positive samples, one of which contains fecal coliform/*E. coli*, constitutes an acute MCL violation.

Lead and Copper Action Levels at Residential Taps

	Action Level (AL)	Public Health Goal	90 th Percentile Value	Sites Exceeding AL / Number of Sites	AL Violation?	Typical Source in Drinking Water
Lead (ppb)	15	0.2	ND	0 / 41	No	Corrosion of Household Plumbing
Copper (ppm)	1.3	0.3	0.29	0 / 41	No	Corrosion of Household Plumbing

Every three years, 41 residences are tested for lead and copper at-the-tap. The most recent set of samples was collected in 2015. Lead was not detected in any of the samples. Copper was detected in 17 samples; none exceeded the action level. A regulatory action level is the concentration of a constituent which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Unregulated Constituents Requiring Monitoring in the Distribution System

Constituent	PHG	Average Amount	Range of Detections	Most Recent Sampling Date
Chlorate (ppb)	n/a	50	31 – 68	2013
Chromium, Hexavalent (ppb)**	0.02	0.52	0.06 – 0.83	2013
Chromium, Total (ppb)***	n/a	0.48	ND – 0.7	2013
Molybdenum, Total (ppb)	n/a	5.2	4.6 – 5.8	2013
Strontium, Total (ppb)	n/a	750	540 – 1,000	2013
Vanadium, Total (ppb)	n/a	3.3	3.1 – 3.6	2013

**Hexavalent chromium is regulated with an MCL of 10 ppb but was not detected, based on the detection limit for purposes of reporting of 1 ppb. Hexavalent chromium was included as part of the unregulated constituents requiring monitoring.

***Total chromium is regulated with an MCL of 50 ppb but was not detected, based on the detection limit for purposes of reporting of 10 ppb. Total chromium was included as part of the unregulated constituents requiring monitoring.

Source Water Assessments

Imported (MWDSC) Water Assessment

Every five years, MWDSC is required by SWRCB to examine possible sources of drinking water contamination in its State Water Project and Colorado River source waters.

In 2012 MWDSC submitted to SWRCB its updated Watershed Sanitary Surveys for the Colorado River and State Water Project which include suggestions for how to better protect these source waters. Both source waters are exposed to stormwater runoff, recreational activities, wastewater discharges, wildlife, fires, and other watershed-related factors that could affect water quality.

Water from the Colorado River is considered to be most vulnerable to contamination from recreation, urban/stormwater runoff, increasing urbanization in the watershed, and wastewater. Water supplies from Northern California's State Water Project are most vulnerable to contamination from urban/stormwater runoff, wildlife, agriculture, recreation, and wastewater.

USEPA also requires MWDSC to complete one Source Water Assessment (SWA) that utilizes information collected in the watershed sanitary surveys. MWDSC completed its SWA in December 2002. The SWA is used to evaluate the vulnerability of water sources to contamination and helps determine whether more protective measures are needed.

A copy of the most recent summary of either Watershed Sanitary Survey or the SWA can be obtained by calling MWDSC at (800) CALL-MWD (225-5693).

Groundwater Assessment

An assessment of the drinking water sources for the City of Westminster was completed in December of 2002 and is continuously being updated.

Westminster groundwater supply wells are considered most vulnerable to the following potential contaminant sources: gas stations, high density housing, dry cleaners, parks, and road right of ways.

You may request a summary or copy of this assessment by contacting Scott Miller, Water Superintendent, Westminster Water Division at (714) 548-3693.



Want Additional Information?

There's a wealth of information on the internet about Drinking Water Quality and water issues in general, especially the drought and conservation. Some good sites – both local and national – to begin your own research are:

City of Westminster Water Division:
www.westminster-ca.gov

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency:
www.epa.gov/safewater

California Department of Water Resources:
www.water.ca.gov

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California:
www.mwdh2o.com

Drought and Water Conservation Tips:
www.BeWaterWise.com
www.SaveOurWater.com

Rebate Information, Water Saving Resources:
www.OCWaterSmart.com



We All Need to Be Water Wise All Year Long

One Average Rainy Season Does Not Overcome the Effects of Four Dry Years

Winter storms this year boosted California's largest reservoirs to their historically average levels, but other key reservoirs remain critically low as our historic drought keeps its grip on the state. One average season does not overcome the effects of four dry years, and rain and snowfall were well below average in Southern California. To learn more about the drought, or to find useful tips for how to conserve water, click the logos to visit:

bewaterwise.com® or **Save Our WATER** 

To learn about programs and devices that can help save water, along with information on rebates for these water saving resources, visit:

www.OCWaterSmart.com

To view a short YouTube video on multiple ways to conserve water, [click here](#).

Conservation Tips for Inside Your Home . . .

Install aerators on the kitchen faucet

Reduces flow to less than 1 gallon per minute

Soak pots and pans instead of letting water run while you scrub them clean

Saves water and makes the job easier

Collect water used to wash fruits and vegetables

Use it to water your houseplants

Cook food in as little water as possible

Saves water and helps retain food nutrients

Keep a pitcher of drinking water in the refrigerator

Saves gallons of water and it's always cold

Wash only full loads of laundry and dishes

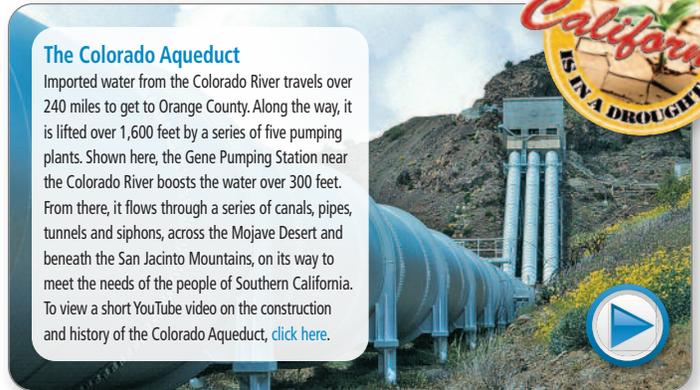
Saves up to 50 gallons per week

Plug the sink instead of running water to rinse your razor

Saves up to 300 gallons a month

Don't run water to thaw food

Defrost in the refrigerator

The Colorado Aqueduct
Imported water from the Colorado River travels over 240 miles to get to Orange County. Along the way, it is lifted over 1,600 feet by a series of five pumping plants. Shown here, the Gene Pumping Station near the Colorado River boosts the water over 300 feet. From there, it flows through a series of canals, pipes, tunnels and siphons, across the Mojave Desert and beneath the San Jacinto Mountains, on its way to meet the needs of the people of Southern California. To view a short YouTube video on the construction and history of the Colorado Aqueduct, [click here](#).





The California State Water Project
The State Water Project, one of the largest water systems in the world, collects water from rivers in Northern California and transports it, through a network of canals, pipelines and tunnels, over many hundreds of miles to Southern California, where it's distributed throughout the region. Along the way, it's lifted almost 3,800 feet, with the highest single lift of 1,926 feet over the Tehachapi Mountains, which separate the San Joaquin Valley from Southern California. To view a short YouTube video that shows the length and complexity of the State Water Project, [click here](#).



We Use the Most Water in Our Homes on the Outside

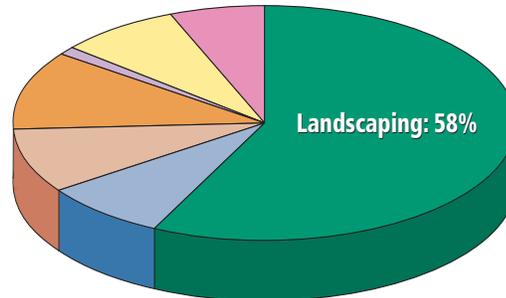
Save the Most Where You Use the Most: Make Your Outdoor Use Efficient!

Outdoor watering of lawns and gardens makes up approximately 60% of home water use. By reducing your outdoor water use — by either cutting back on irrigation or planting more drought tolerant landscaping — you can dramatically reduce your overall water use.

For rebates on water saving devices, visit:

www.OCWaterSmart.com

How Residential Water is Used in Orange County



- Showers & Baths: 8%
- Clothes Washers: 9%
- Toilets: 11%
- Dishwashers: 1%
- Leaks: 7%
- Faucets: 6%

Data is representative of average consumption; your water usage may vary.

Tips for Conserving Water Outside Your Home. . .

Use a broom instead of a hose

It takes very little time to sweep and the water savings add up

Water plants in the early morning

Reduces evaporation and ensures deeper watering

Plant drought-resistant trees and plants

Saves about 30-60 gallons per 1,000 sq. ft. each time you water

Remove the turf from your yard

Saves about 42 gallons per square foot/per year

Check your sprinkler system for leaks, overspray and broken sprinkler heads and repair promptly

Saves 12-15 gallons each time you water

Use organic mulch around trees and plants to reduce evaporation & improve the soil

Saves about 20-30 gallons per 1,000 sq. ft. each time you water

Cover your swimming pool or hot tub

Reduces evaporation and saves energy on heating your pool

Water your garden deeply to promote healthier, stronger plants and prune regularly

Deep watering creates established plants which won't need water as often after they're established

Talk to your family and friends about saving water.

If everyone does a little, we all benefit a lot.



City of Westminister Conservation

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