

Customer PipeLine

WATER CONSERVATION: EVERY DROP COUNTS

Water is a precious resource in our environment and it is becoming more valuable on a global scale. Growing populations and cyclical droughts are taxing our water resources, impacting our everyday use of water. We have no choice but to pay more attention to how we are using water, and how it is being wasted. Conserving water will save you money, and it will help ensure that we have an adequate supply of clean water for years to come.

BE AWARE OF AND FOLLOW ALL WATER CONSERVATION AND WATER SHORTAGE RULES AND RESTRICTIONS THAT MAY BE IN EFFECT IN YOUR AREA.

This issue will be the beginning of a continuing source of information on the many simple ways we can all take action to conserve water, both inside and outside our homes.

YOU'RE IN CONTROL

Try to do one thing each day to save water. Don't worry if the savings are minimal. Every drop counts, and every person can make a difference.

OUTDOOR WATER WASTERS TO WATCH:

1. Don't over water your lawn. As a general rule, lawns only need watering every 5 to 7 days in the summer. A hearty rain eliminates the need for watering for as long as two weeks. During extended periods of dry weather, ECUA recommends watering between the hours of 10 p.m. and 3 a.m., to reduce lowered system pressure during the peak demand times in the early morning and dinner hours. Please check the ECUA web site at www.ecua.org or tune in to local media to hear about up-to-the-minute watering restrictions that may be in effect. During periods of normal precipitation rates, water lawns during the early morning hours when temperatures and wind speed are the lowest. This reduces losses from evaporation.
2. Don't water your street, driveway, or sidewalk. Position your sprinklers so that your water lands on the lawn and shrubs and not the paved areas.
3. Install sprinklers that are the most water-efficient for each use such as micro and drip irrigation and soaker hoses. Do not leave sprinklers or hoses unattended. Your garden hose can pour out 600 gallons or more in only a few hours.

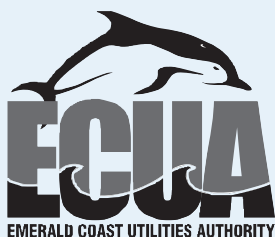
INDOOR WATER WASTERS TO WATCH:

1. Keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator instead of running the tap, waiting for the water to run cold.
2. Run your washing machine and dishwasher only when they are full. This could save you up to 1000 gallons a month.
3. Wash your produce in the sink or a pan that is partially filled with water instead of running water from the tap. Then, collect the water you use for rinsing produce and reuse it to water houseplants.
4. If your shower can fill a one-gallon bucket in less than 20 seconds, then replace it with a water-efficient shower head. An ultra low-flow version can save up to 2.5 gallons per minute.
5. When washing dishes by hand, fill one sink or basin with soapy water. Quickly rinse under a slow stream of water from the faucet. Then, use the rinse water to run your sink disposal if necessary.

DID YOU KNOW?

The ECUA's daily water production during the week of May 21 was approximately 55 million gallons per day (mgd). ECUA has sufficient water and pumping capability within its 34 well system to accommodate this demand. In order to moderate some of the extreme peaks in usage, and to maintain a balanced system pressure and reduce the amount of wear on our pumping equipment, we recommend that our customers irrigate between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 3:00 a.m., which is our optimum off-peak time.

If a large percentage of the customers respond to our request, this will greatly enhance our system capabilities and expand the life of our equipment.



The 2006 Consumer Confidence Report is On its Way!

The federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) was signed into law in 1974. This year marks the 33rd anniversary of this important legislation, whose purpose is to assure that water supply systems serving the American public meet minimum national standards for the protection of public health. Amendments to the SDWA in 1996 required the development of the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) in 1999 (and annually thereafter) by utilities nationwide, in an effort to promote the dissemination of information from utilities to their customers. Our first CCR, for the 1998 reporting year, went out to our customers in October 1999 and since that time, CCR mailing schedules changed to July 1, in compliance with federal regulations.



The CCR identifies the source of your drinking water, treatments that may be used to enhance its quality, and any contaminants that have been identified along with potential health effects. It will also note where you may obtain additional information about your water supply and how you can become involved in protecting water sources.

Water utilities across the country are preparing once again to send these reports to their customers. Look for the ECUA's Consumer Confidence Report in your mailbox well before July 1, 2007.

NEW ECUA WELL POISED TO GO ONLINE

Construction work at the ECUA's new Kingsfield well is on schedule, and it should be available for water production by the end of June 2007. This well, located at Kingsfield Road, west of Highway 29, will be the thirty-fifth in the ECUA system. Its production capability will be 3000 gallons per minute (gpm), adding approximately 4 million gallons per day (mgd) to ECUA's overall water production capacity. This well is strategically placed to enhance the needs of customers in the northern part of the ECUA's system.