

Frequently Asked Questions

ABOUT FLUORIDATION

The Los Angeles County Waterworks Districts purchases the water we provide to our customers from West Basin Municipal Water District. West Basin in turn is a member agency of the Metropolitan Water District (MWD). Beginning October 2007, all water provided by MWD to member agencies in Southern California will be fluoridated.

What is water fluoridation?

Fluoride is a naturally occurring mineral in groundwater, rivers, lakes and streams found to be beneficial for teeth. In the 1930s, scientists discovered very low tooth decay rates in people who consumed water containing fluoride. Water fluoridation is when fluoride is added to tap water to levels that will reduce tooth decay.

What are the benefits of fluoridated water?

More than 50 years of scientific research indicate that people drinking water with fluoride have healthier teeth and fewer cavities. Community water fluoridation is supported by major medical organizations including the American Medical Association, American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, Centers for Disease Control and World Health Organization.

Is fluoridated water harmful to me?

No, fluoridated water is not harmful in the concentration required for improved dental health. The concentration of fluoride in your water will be well below the limit set by the California Department of Health Services and Environmental Protection Agency. If liquid concentrate or powdered infant formula is the primary source of nutrition for an infant in your household or if you use home kidney dialysis equipment, please consult your physician for recommendations.

Is fluoridated water harmful to my lawn or pets?

No, research shows that fluoridated water is not harmful to human or pet health, gardens or agricultural crops.

Who is required to fluoridate?

In California, a regulation was passed in 1995 by the state legislature requiring large public water systems to fluoridate their water.

Does my city fluoridate the water?

Beginning October 2007, water received from MWD via West Basin Municipal Water District will be fluoridated. Los Angeles County Waterworks Districts 29 and 80 purchase the water supplied to customers from West Basin, so all District 29 and 80 customers will receive fluoridated water.

Do other cities fluoridate their water?

Yes. Forty-three large cities across the U.S. fluoridate their drinking water. Many Southern California cities and water suppliers already fluoridate water, including Los Angeles, Long Beach and Beverly Hills.

What is the cost?

Because MWD is fluoridating its entire system, there is virtually no cost to you.

What if I am concerned about fluoride in my water?

There is no reason to be concerned about the fluoride in your water, it is not harmful and provides dental health benefits. However, if you do not want to receive those benefits, many residential water treatment devices, including reverse osmosis units, remove fluoride from tap water.

For more information on fluoride, please visit www.mwdh2o.com or contact Edgar Dymally at (213) 217-5709.

Save Water, Protect the Ocean

While protecting our water supply is always a key reason to use water responsibly, it's not the only reason to make sure it's not overused or wasted. Overusing water can also cause pollution to our oceans—water that runs off yards from excess or improper watering ends up in the street where it picks up pollutants like trash, bacteria, and motor oil on its way through the storm drain system and ends up in the Pacific Ocean.

To stop polluting, make sure your sprinkler system is operating correctly; that sprinkler heads are not tilted, clogged or broken, that the system doesn't leak and that the water is directed to your lawn and plants and not running off onto the streets and sidewalks. In addition to saving water, making sure no excess water runs off your property protects the beautiful and vitally important Pacific Ocean.

So please, take a few minutes a week to check your sprinkler system and prevent runoff. You'll not only be saving precious water, you'll be protecting our precious ocean.





With the driest season on record, water conservation should be high priority this summer for all residents. With so little rain, every drop counts! Here are 10 easy and effective ways to save water at home and in the garden:

- Adjust your sprinklers. Up to 70 percent of residential water use goes to maintaining our yards. Try taking a minute or two off the timer.
- Check your system. Do a weekly check for broken or clogged sprinkler heads and replace them right away. Make sure you are watering your yard and not the driveway or sidewalk.
- Fix those leaks. Just a drip can waste more than 10,000 gallons per month. A leaking flapper on a toilet also increases flows at the water treatment plant.
- Plant native species or drought-tolerant plants. Many of the lawns and plants we use are not intended for the unique climate in Southern California. Visit your local nursery and ask for native plants that work well in your area.
- Use a broom instead of a hose. Sweeping up rather than hosing off leaves or grass clippings not only saves water, it reduces runoff.
- Get an adjustable hose nozzle for outdoor use. That way you can adjust the spray to meet your needs. A hose running for five minutes uses the same amount of water as a 20-minute shower.
- 7 Eliminate runoff. Runoff could mean your lawn needs aeration. When you aerate your lawn, you give the water somewhere to go besides down the storm drain.
- Take shorter showers. Cutting two minutes off your shower time can save 600 gallons a month for a family of four. If you change the showerhead to a water efficient model, you could save even more.
- Turn off the water while you brush your teeth or shave.
- Wash only full loads of laundry. Waiting until you have a full load can save you up to 20 gallons for the same amount of clean clothes.





"Three Easy Ways" Advertising Campaign

The District's new water conservation education campaign aims to reduce indoor and outdoor water consumption through awareness. Look for our new campaign featuring "Three Easy Ways" to reduce water wastage in your local newspaper.

"Now that it's summer, saving water should be on every resident's mind," says Melinda Barrett, Water Conservation Program Manager with the Districts. "Unknowingly, people can waste hundreds of gallons a day in their outdoor water usage. These are simple things everyone can do in their own homes to save water and money."

Winning Water Saving Tip

Install an instant hot water dispenser at your kitchen sink and use it for hot water to wash dishes by hand. This avoids running tap water while waiting for it to heat up and saves lots of precious water!

Margaret Giuliani from Malibu is the winner of the 2007 Water Conservation Contest. She and

other winners will receive an outdoor conservation kit that includes a spray nozzle, water timer, rain gauge, moisture meter and more. Congratulations Margaret!

Other winners include: Ronald L. Denend, Topanga; Florence Nishida, Topanga; James Richards, Malibu; Rebecca McKay, Malibu; and Elaine Hunt, Malibu.

Mission: "To provide reliable, high-quality water at a reasonable cost to all of our customers."

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