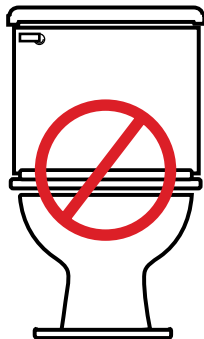


pipelines



What Not to Flush!



Sewer overflows and backups can cause health hazards, damage home interiors, and threaten the environment. A common cause of sewer overflows are pipes blocked by items flushed down the toilet.

Many common household items find their way into toilets, drains and pipes, causing clogging and overflows. Helping to prevent backups is easy.

In the bathroom, think trash can, not toilet. If it isn't biodegradable, put it in the trash, instead of the toilet. The following items belong in the trash can: bags, wrappings and cardboard; band-aids and bandage wrappers, cleaning wipes (including so-called "disposable" or "flushable" wipes); condoms; cotton balls, swabs and pads; dental floss and teeth whitening strips; disposable diapers, nursing pads and baby wipes; facial wipes; flammable or explosive substances; hair; kitty litter; mini and maxi-pads, tampons and applicators; motor oil, transmission fluids, anti-freeze or other toxic chemicals; needles and sharps; paper towels; rags; solvents, paints, turpentine, nail polish and polish remover.

Throwing these unflushable items in the trash instead of the toilet will help prevent blocked pipes and will also help conserve water.

Unused or expired prescriptions, or over the counter medications, should never be flushed down the toilet or poured down a sink. Check with your local police department or pharmacy to see if they have a drug collection program. If no collection option exists, follow these steps:

- Remove all personal identification from prescription bottles;
- Mix all unused drugs with coffee grounds, kitty litter or another undesirable substance, and/or
- Place this mixture in a sealed container before disposing in the trash.

A safe, environmentally responsible way for residents to dispose of hazardous materials (other than pharmaceuticals) from home, yard and car maintenance is provided by the County of Orange at their Irvine Regional Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center. The "Stop and Swap" service at this center helps the county reduce its cost of disposing of materials which cannot be safely disposed of down the drain or with regular trash, such as paint, batteries, pesticides, pool chemicals, etc. Stop and Swap also allows residents to pick up usable materials which other residents have dropped off. "Swapping" helps residents reduce and

Continued on page 2...

Fix a Leak Week 2010 Invites IRWD Customers to Save

As reported in the February issue of *Pipelines*, February kicked off the 2010 Fix a Leak Week promotion. IRWD is offering **special rewards to customers who find and fix leaks**. Participating customers can take advantage of this promotion by following these smart water-and-money-saving steps:

1. **Find and fix water leaks promptly.**
2. **Call IRWD customer service at 949-453-5300** and request a one-time-per-leak adjustment

during the Fix a Leak promotional period, February 1 through March 20, 2010. IRWD is thanking customers for fixing leaks by sending them three water conservation convenience items, including a 5-minute shower timer, a quality recyclable shopping bag and a tube squeezer.

But wait, there's more...

3. **Save your receipts from the leak repair.** By fixing a leak and requesting an adjustment during the Fix a Leak promotional period, participating customers' names are automatically entered in a drawing to win reimbursement for the cost of their leak repair, not to exceed \$200 per customer. The drawing will be held on March 22 and winners will be notified by March 29.

For full details on how to participate in this valuable savings opportunity, please visit www.AlwaysWaterSmart.com and click on "Fix a Leak Week 2010."

Love your Garden ... and your Water Bill

- SAVE WATER -
- SAVE MONEY -
- SAVE THE OCEAN -

Join us for a **FREE** landscape workshop on **March 26, 2010** from **6 to 9 p.m.** at our Sand Canyon headquarters and learn the California Friendly way to a beautiful landscape with less water and more money in your pocket.

You'll learn:

- ☀ How to pick the right plants
- ☀ How much to water your plants
- ☀ How to water to reduce runoff

For more information, and to RSVP, go to www.irwd.com and click on "Free Programs" or call 949-453-5327.



African Daisy

Earth Day Event Featured in IRWD's Online Calendar

The Newport Bay Naturalists and Friends, on behalf of the County of Orange, the California Department of Fish and Game, the City of Newport Beach and the California Coastal Commission, invite you to join them at this year's Earth Day Event to be held Sunday, April 25, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Peter and Mary Muth Interpretive Center, 2301 University Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660.

Visit www.irwd.com and click on "Community Events" to view the entire IRWD Community Calendar online. All online calendar and conservation information is continually updated.



Irvine Ranch Water District

The mission of Irvine Ranch Water District, a public agency, is to provide reliable, high quality water and sewer service in an efficient, cost effective manner and environmentally sensitive way that provides a high level of customer satisfaction.

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Marsh Pond Rehabilitation Underway

Visitors to the Fledgling Loop Trail at the IRWD San Joaquin Marsh will need to take a detour due to construction work on the banks of several ponds.



Workers clearing away bulrush and vegetation from a marsh pond.

This regular maintenance is anticipated to be completed by mid-March, weather permitting. When work is finished, the bulrush will be re-planted and the enhanced ponds and trails will give marsh visitors a fresh opportunity for bird watching and hiking.

Please heed the "trail closed" signs while this work continues.

What Not to Flush! ...continued from page 1

reuse materials, helping to keep landfills, and ultimately our water supplies, free of hazardous wastes. Stop and Swap is available during the center's regular hours of 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, except for holidays and rainy days. The center is located at 6411 Oak Canyon Avenue, off Sand Canyon Avenue between Irvine Center Drive and the Santa Ana Freeway. For more information call (714) 834-6752 or visit www.oclandfills.com.



24-Hour Service

949.453.5300

If you discover a disruption in your water service or other problem call the IRWD 24-hour emergency line and a representative will assist you.

24-Hour Online or Mobile Access

Visit our website: www.irwd.com



IRWD is now on Facebook.com

Join our fan page:

Irvine Ranch Water District

Follow IRWD's Twitter channels:



@IRWDemergency

@IRWDnews

@AlwaysH2OSmart



IRWD's YouTube channel is:

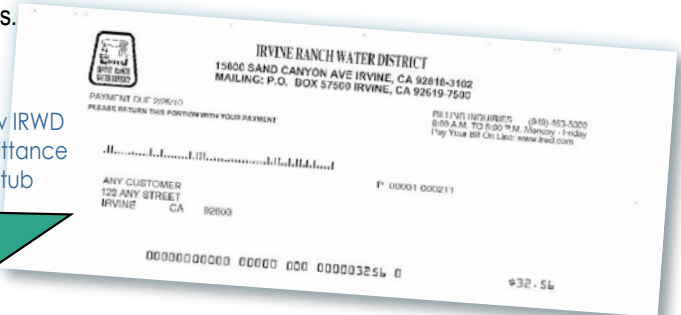
IrvineRanchWD



Does Your Water Bill Look Different?

In response to customer requests, we've made some changes to the look of your water bill. The remittance stub is now located at the bottom of the bill and includes your payment due date. You may also now compare your usage in gallons for the last 13 months.

New IRWD
remittance
stub



Cut along dashed line and post this schedule near your irrigation controller.

Suggested Weekly Early Spring Irrigation Schedule

| Month | Turfgrass | Trees, Shrubs & Ground Cover | % Option*** |
|--------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------|
| March* | 3 days, 2 cycles** of 3 minutes each | 2 days, 2 cycles of 3 minutes each | 50% |
| April* | 3 days, 2 cycles of 4 minutes each | 2 days, 2 cycles of 4 minutes each | 70% |

The above chart suggests a weekly schedule for spray-head irrigation, assuming heavy clay soils common to most local coastal and foothill areas. Generally, these are the MAXIMUM times you will need for full sun areas. Your landscape's particular watering times may vary. Start with this schedule and increase the times only if your plants show signs of stress. If stress occurs only in isolated areas, check your irrigation system before increasing the watering time.

Don't forget to turn off your sprinklers when it rains. For convenience, consider installing an automatic rain shut-off device on your irrigation system.

*March/April is the most active growth period for turfgrass and other plants. If rain becomes infrequent, be sure to water adequately.

**By "cycling" the irrigation controller to turn on for the recommended number of minutes an hour apart, deeper watering and healthier root growth are gained, while runoff is reduced.

***The % option, either a button or a dial, permits the watering run times for all electric valves managed by a controller to be increased or decreased with just one adjustment by percentage.