

# Irvine Ranch Water District Residential Water Treatment – Preliminary Design Questionnaire



The high-quality drinking water supplied to your home from Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) does not require a home water treatment system. Using IRWD drinking water is efficient and cost-effective.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:  
SELF-REGENERATING WATER  
SOFTENING SYSTEMS ARE  
PROHIBITED**

## Getting Started

If you have a reason to install a home water treatment device, visit IRWD's Water Quality website to understand why we encourage the use of salt-free water treatment systems: [IRWD.com/water-report](http://IRWD.com/water-report). If you decide a water treatment system is necessary, we encourage you to consider the following steps:

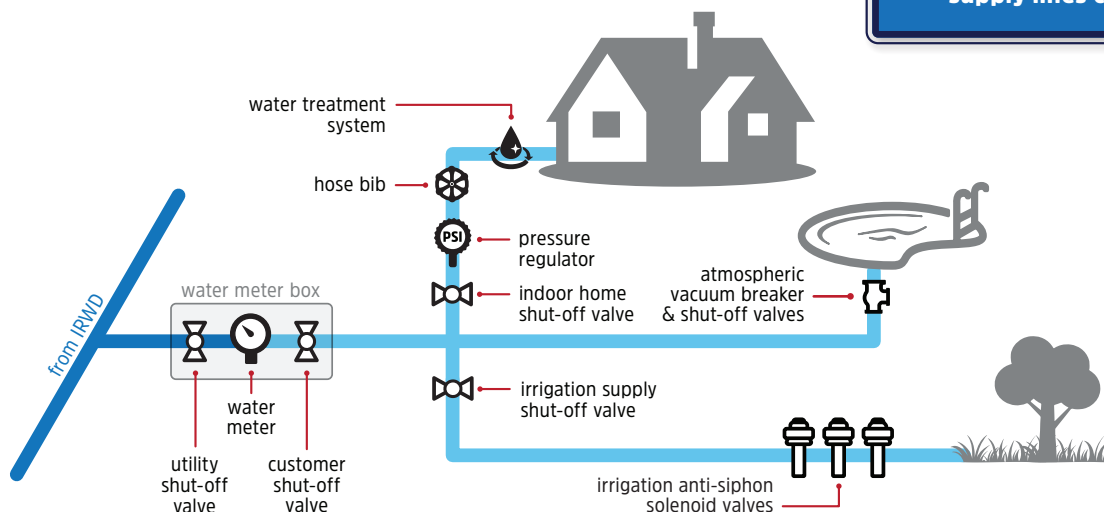
- 1. Identify any water issues you believe exist, such as color, odor, or taste.**
  - a. Have you reached out to Irvine Ranch Water District with your water quality concern?
  - b. Have you reviewed the Irvine Ranch Water District Water Quality Report?
- 2. The issue you are experiencing can reflect the type of water treatment system best suited for your needs.**
  - a. The Sanitation District of Los Angeles County has developed a list of salt-free water treatment devices that are safe for sewer discharge. For more information, visit: [lacsdc.org/services/wastewater/scvchloridecompliance/automatic\\_water\\_softeners/alternatives.asp](http://lacsdc.org/services/wastewater/scvchloridecompliance/automatic_water_softeners/alternatives.asp)

## Evaluate Your Home

To ensure your system is as water-efficient and cost-effective as possible, we encourage you to have a good understanding of how the treated water will move through your home.

- 1. Draw a rough blueprint of your home's plumbing system**
  - a. If you're unsure where to start, try using your WaterInsight portal at [IRWD.waterinsight.com](http://IRWD.waterinsight.com). Under the 'I want to...' section scroll down to 'Learn to read my meter'. These informational videos will help you familiarize yourself with your property.
  - b. Most importantly, you should determine if there are any potential plumbing lines that do not need to have the highly treated water. Unnecessary areas may include: hose bibs, pools, fountains, water features, irrigation supply lines to valves, toilets, faucets, etc. In general, the water supply line to the outside of the home should have a separate plumbing line not supplied by the residential water treatment system.
  - c. Are there multiple shut-off valves easily accessible for emergency shut off or plumbing repairs?

**WATER EFFICIENCY TIP:  
Shut-off valves should be installed  
wherever possible so that in the  
event of a leak or repair, water  
supply lines can be isolated.**



### Deciding on a Location

Determine a possible area for installation that is larger than the square footage of the device allowing for maintenance or repair.

- Is there space between plumbing pipes and walls for multiple shut-off valves?
- Is there easy access for emergency shut-offs, plumbing repairs, and water supply diversion?

### Things to Consider

Certain residential water treatment devices can be inefficient. Before purchasing your device, understand the possible increase in water and energy costs to operate these devices.

Size your device appropriately for your household. A filter that is too small may slow water flow when needed; an incorrectly sized conditioning tank may require more backwashing, which can increase water and energy use.

If you want to treat all the indoor plumbing lines in your home, consider installing your treatment system on the water supply line leading to your hot water heater. This alternative installation is more efficient and will save on maintenance over time.

**WATER EFFICIENCY TIP:**  
California law requires that residential water treatment systems have high-efficiency restrictors on all indoor devices downstream of (or supplied by) the treatment device, i.e. high-efficiency toilets, faucet aerators, and shower heads.