

Be Water Wise This Winter!

IN THIS ISSUE

- Infrastructure investment pays off during shutdown
- Learn how to fix a toilet leak
- MNWD helps HOAs become water wise
- Rebates available for water-efficient purchases
- Know how to shut off your water
- Sign up for a California-Friendly Landscape Workshop



WaterLines

February 2012

www.MNWD.com

Infrastructure Investments Paying Off

The Moulton Niguel Water District was disconnected from our primary source of water for seven days in early January while a key regional treatment plant in Yorba Linda underwent planned annual maintenance. Thanks to the District's recent key infrastructure investments, the impact of the shutdown went unnoticed by our customers.



MNWD's recent investment in the Upper Chiquita Reservoir provides an additional week of emergency storage, which was helpful during a recent planned shutdown of our water supply.

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's Robert B. Diemer Treatment Plant in Yorba Linda supplies most of the water for south Orange County, and when it shuts for a week each winter, local water providers like MNWD must rely on water stored in reservoirs to meet local demand.

In past years, the Diemer shutdown has prompted requests for customers to significantly curtail their water use, even eliminating all outdoor watering, to make sure there was enough water for everyone. Such requests were not necessary this year

because MNWD has taken several steps recently to improve our water supply reliability, which allowed us to withstand the shutdown without incident.

MNWD partnered with other local water providers on the Upper Chiquita Reservoir, which was completed in October and provides the District an additional week of new emergency water storage. The Irvine Ranch Water District Interconnection now links South County water providers to groundwater supplies in central and north Orange County, which is an important new emergency water source. Also, the Water-Budget-Based Rate Structure that went into effect last summer has greatly increased water efficiency throughout our service area.

Combined, these efforts have greatly increased the District's ability to provide our customers a reliable supply of water throughout the year. But our region is still dependent on water delivered from other parts of the state, so we must continue to be as efficient as possible with our resources. That's also why MNWD will continue to make strategic investments in our water infrastructure, so we are prepared should an unplanned event interrupt water deliveries for much longer than the week we just experienced.

Water Efficiency Update

Last month

87%

of MNWD customers remained within their water budgets.

Are you using more than you need?

Water Conservation Tip of the Month

Reduce your winter watering. Plants go dormant in fall and winter and require 40 to 70 percent less water than during summer months.

For more easy water-saving tips, visit www.MNWD.com or call (949) 831-2500.

Where's Your Water Shut-off Valve?

Do you know where your home's water shut-off valve is? Does everyone else in your family know where it is? If there's an emergency, you'll need to know in a hurry. You can't afford to waste precious minutes searching for the shut-off valve when you have a leak or a line break gushing water.

Every home, apartment and business should have a valve that turns the building's water on or off. The shut-off valve is part of your private plumbing and should not be confused with your water meter. The most likely location for your home's water valve is where the water line enters the building, either at the front of your house where you connect your hose, or in the garage.

When you think you've located the valve, try a simple test to be sure you've got the right one. Start by turning it off. Then check the faucets inside to see if they're receiving water. If they are dry, you've got the right one. If not, try adjusting a different valve. Please take special care if you live in a condo. You may have access to a row of valves, so be careful not to shut off your neighbors' water!

Once you've found the right valve, mark it with a tag or colorful paint. Make it easy to see so you will be able to quickly find it in an emergency. If you cannot turn your water valve off in an emergency and need to have the water turned off at the District's meter, please call us at (949) 831-2500. We are available 24/7 and will be happy to send someone out to stop the water right away.



California-Friendly Plant of the Month:

Ascot Rainbow



Many MNWD customers, mostly the young ones, wish the holiday season would last all year long. While the king of holiday foliage, the festive poinsettia, wasn't made to withstand the warm, dry Southern California climate, its cousin, the Ascot Rainbow, is, and adding it to your California-Friendly garden is a great way to enjoy a little bit of the holidays year round.

The Ascot Rainbow is a member of the Euphorbia family, and it's actually a bit of a chameleon. It features stunning green leaves rimmed in yellow during the spring and summer months. As the weather turns cooler, the leaves take on red and pink accents to signal the holidays are near.

Ascot Rainbow is easy to maintain, and thrives in the ground and in pots. It only needs a little sun and barely any water at all. The Ascot Rainbow is a vigorous grower, but doesn't require any pruning to maintain an attractive shape. Add this beauty to your California-Friendly garden today!

Ascot Rainbow *Euphorbia x martinii*

Season:	Year round
Size:	Up to 2 ft. tall, 2 ft. wide
Color:	Green, yellow and red flowers
Water:	Low
Sun:	Partial shade/ full sun

Do You Know How to Fix a Leaky Toilet?

Toilet leaks are the largest water waster in your home.

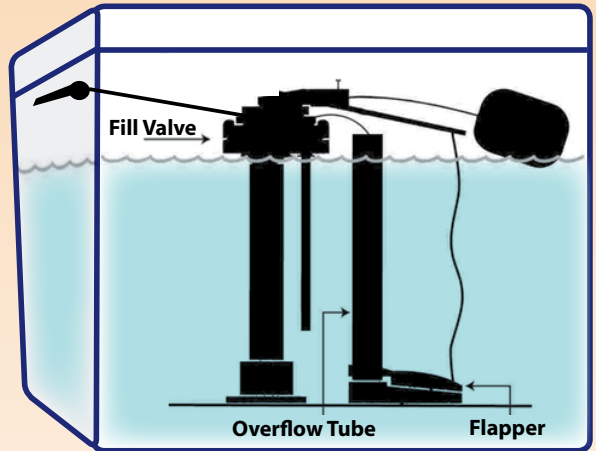
Do you know if your toilet is getting the right amount of water? If not, now is the time to check, because you could be wasting thousands of gallons each month without knowing it.

If your toilet continuously runs, the water level in the tank may be too high, resulting in water flowing over the top of the overflow tube (see image below). If your toilet is not flushing well, the tank water level may be too low (or you have a clogged waste line). The correct water level should be inscribed on the inside of the tank or indicated on the overflow tube. If you are unable to find a water level mark, a good rule of thumb is to adjust the level to one inch below the top of the overflow tube.

To adjust the water level in older toilet tanks, just turn the screw atop the fill valve. Newer toilets may have a float cup that slides up and down the fill valve, so you'll have to adjust the stiff wire link. Please note that even new toilets may need water-level adjustments as the toilet is broken in.

Additionally, toilet flappers are prone to harden over time, which causes them to create an intermittent leak, resulting in higher water bills. When the rubber on a toilet flapper becomes hardened or deteriorated, the water level in the toilet tank will slowly drop over minutes or hours, to the point that the toilet tank will have to refill. If your toilet has been fitted with the wrong flapper, the flapper could potentially stick open after the toilet has been flushed and waste approximately one to three gallons per minute. Replacing an old flapper is inexpensive and can save thousands of gallons per month.

If you have an older toilet and would like to replace it, you're in luck. MNWD is offering rebates of up to \$150 for the purchase of high-efficiency toilets, limit of five per household. Visit www.MNWD.com for more information.



National Fix-a-Leak Week

March 11-17

Celebrate by saving water and money

Commercial and Irrigation Customers Strive for Efficiency

Recent workshop helped large users become water wise.



More than 100 local businesses, home owners associations and commercial irrigators packed MNWD's board room last month for several workshops on efficient watering practices. The District is hosting a series of Efficiency Workshops to help these large customers learn about tips and programs to keep their landscaping green without overwatering, which will help maximize our region's water resources and potentially save thousands of dollars each year in unnecessary water costs. Similar workshops are being planned for residential customers as well. Visit www.MNWD.com for details.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Larry McKenney
President

Donald Froelich
Vice President

Brian Probolsky
Vice President

Laurence R. Lizotte

Richard S. Fiore

Gary Kurtz

Scott Colton

Robert C. Gumerman, Ph.D., P.E.
General Manager

Charles J. Roy
Editor

For meeting dates and agendas, visit www.MNWD.com. *WaterLines* is a monthly publication to keep water users in the Moulton Niguel Water District informed about water-related issues and events. Please send any comments or suggestions to MNWD, 27500 La Paz Road, Laguna Niguel, CA, 92677, or call us at (949) 831-2500. www.MNWD.com.

California-Friendly Landscape Workshops

Please join us for one of our FREE landscape workshops to learn the California-Friendly way to a beautiful landscape that uses less water and saves you money.

You'll learn:

- ✿ How to pick the right plants
- ✿ How to manage your sprinkler system for efficient irrigation
- ✿ The proper way to fertilize and maintain your water-wise garden

Wednesday, March 14 & April 18 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

MNWD Main Office
27500 La Paz Rd., Laguna Niguel

Saturday, March 10 & April 14 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

MNWD Operations Facility
26161 Gordon Rd., Laguna Hills

COST: Free

These workshops include refreshments. Space is limited and reservations fill quickly. For more information or to RSVP, please call (949) 831-2500.

**Conserve Today: Save Water. Save Money.
Protect the Environment.**