



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
Water Department

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 4, 2004

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Maximizing Water Conservation During Rainy Weather

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SAN DIEGO – Many parts of Southern California, including San Diego, received record-breaking rainfall during the month of October. With all of that water, it might seem like the need to conserve water no longer exists, but it's actually the best time to make the most of the rain by using water wisely. As residents and business owners gear up for more potential wet weather this winter, the City of San Diego Water Department advises San Diegans to reinforce homes or businesses with the appropriate indoor and outdoor water saving fixtures to not only protect their property, but to also maximize water conservation efforts.

“More than half of the water San Diegans use goes towards landscape irrigation,” said Dan Carney, Landscape Architect for the City of San Diego Water Department. “So if there are things we can do to use water wisely outdoors during heavy rains, it will make a huge difference in the amount of water we conserve and add to our local water supply.”

Following are just a few tips homeowners and businesses can use to protect their property and make the most of the cold, wet weather with water conservation:

- ◆ Direct your rain gutters towards the plants in your landscaped areas.
- ◆ Install rain sensors on your sprinkler system to prevent over-watering your lawn with an automatic shut-off for rainy days. You can also manually turn off your system when it rains.
- ◆ Cover exposed soil surfaces with a layer of mulch or netting. This will help to retain the water in the soil by reducing the amount of water that is lost through evaporation, prevent erosion, and prevent the invasion of weeds.

- ◆ Place buckets and containers outside to collect the rainwater. You can then use this water for indoor plants.
- ◆ October marked the beginning of the fall season and the end of Daylight Savings time, so update the clock on your irrigation timer to ensure an accurate watering schedule.
- ◆ Create your own customized watering schedule for your sprinkler system by using the free online Landscape Watering Calculator. The system is completely free and easy to use, and provides an accurate schedule for how often and how much you should water according to the seasons and the types of plants in your landscape. Log on to www.sandiego.gov/water to access it.
- ◆ Insulate your water pipes to help speed up the process for getting warm water to your faucets. This means less cold water lost down the drain while you are waiting for the water to heat up.
- ◆ Control erosion around your home during heavy rains by using wooden deflector barriers, such as plywood, or sandbags to re-channel mudflow safely around structures. Sandbags should be filled half-full with sand or soil and the flaps tied under or pointed in the direction of the water source. Bags should be tightly fitted and each layer staggered, like building a brick wall. Rows should be no more than 3 layers high, unless they form a pyramid or are supported by a building. For additional tips on erosion control, get a copy of “A Homeowner’s Guide to Fire and Watershed Management At The Chaparral/Urban Interface” by logging onto www.sandiego.gov or calling (619) 235-1984. Or contact your local flood control office for additional tips and information.

Before the rains come, homeowners and businesses can prepare their property with these simple water saving measures to make the most out of rainwater. Rain or shine, water conservation is a part of the San Diegan lifestyle. Join in on the effort to use water wisely all year long, no matter what the weather forecast.

The Water Conservation Program reduces water demand through promoting or providing incentives for the installation of hardware that provides permanent water savings, and by providing services and information to help San Diegans make better decisions about water use. For more information about Water Conservation, visit www.sandiego.gov/water or call 619.515.3500.