



EMWD reports...

MARCH 2009

Water Budgets & Tiered Rates *now effective!*

Water budgets are designed to **give customers the water they need** for both indoor and outdoor uses. **Tiered water rates reward customers who use water efficiently** and discourage water waste.

All **residential and landscape customers** are converting to a water budget-based tiered rate structure. Billing statements will reflect those changes beginning April 9, 2009.

Each customer's **total water budget includes indoor and outdoor water budgets**, in billing units. **One (1) billing unit represents 748 gallons of water.**

Indoor water budgets are based on the number of residents in the household, each using 60 gallons per day. The default single family residential household budget is based on 3 residents, and multifamily residential is 2 residents.

Indoor water budgets may be customized to the specific household size through EMWD's variance process.

As water is used, billing units are charged the **Indoor Use rate** until a customer reaches the maximum number of billing units in their indoor water budget.

Outdoor water budgets are based on the amount of water required to maintain a property's estimated irrigated area as if there was turf grass in that area. The number of billing units will vary every month depending on daily weather information gathered throughout the District's service area. Therefore, **customers will receive more water in the summer for outdoor water budgets than in the winter.**

Each customer's estimated irrigated area is listed on their shadow bill letter, which was enclosed with the February and March billing statements, and will be featured on their billing statements beginning April 9, 2009.

Outdoor water budgets may be customized to the specific irrigated area through EMWD's variance process. Customers with pools, spas, and ponds may note that the evaporation rate is approximately equal to the amount of water that turf grass requires, so it is already accounted for in outdoor water budgets.

Once all indoor water budget units are used, billing units are charged the **Outdoor Use rate** until a customer reaches the maximum number of billing units in their outdoor water budget.

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**Shadow Bill
is enclosed
with your
statement.**

I'm exceeding my water budget... now what?

TIPS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR STAYING IN YOUR WATER BUDGET

LOOK OUTSIDE FIRST! The majority of a home's total water use is for landscaping. Here are some steps to take to use water wisely outdoors:

- **Cycle and soak your landscape** to help water soak deep into dry or hard, compacted soils. Set your irrigation system to water:
 - 3 times per day (between 9 pm and 6 am)
 - 4 minutes per watering cycle
 - 1 hour in between each cycle

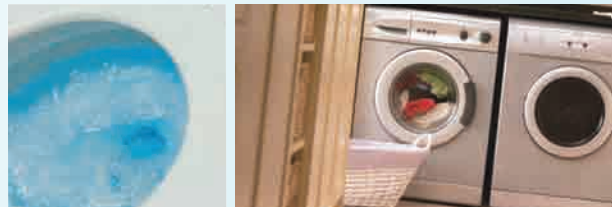
Following this process, you only have to water 4 days per week during summer months and 1 day per week during winter months.

- **Always turn off your sprinkler system during the rain.**
- **Reduce the size of your lawn.** Now is the time to plan for drought restrictions. Consider replacing some or all grass areas with a variety of materials including rocks, mulches, and drought-tolerant plants. Visit <http://www.bewaterwise.com/knowledge01.html> for helpful information.
- **Retrofit your irrigation system.** Convert plants and trees from traditional water-wasting spray heads to a drip system to reduce water lost to evaporation or runoff.
- **Install a weather-based irrigation controller,** rotating nozzles, or a moisture sensor. Check out www.emwd.org for rebates.
- If you have a **pool or spa, use a cover.**

Focus on toilets and clothes washers indoors!

Toilets are the largest indoor water user. If you have an older home (built prior to 1992) and you haven't replaced your toilets, plan on it now. **Rebates are available.** Visit www.emwd.org for more information.

Be sure to keep your toilet well maintained. Leaking toilets – even silent ones you can't hear – can waste hundreds of gallons of water per day. To monitor toilets for leaks, put food coloring into the tank of your toilet. If the color shows up in the bowl, there's a leak.



Clothes washers are the second largest indoor water user. Consider replacing a traditional washer, which averages about 40 gallons per load, with a new high efficiency model which typically uses just over 20 gallons per load. **Rebates are available.** Visit www.emwd.org for more information.

Read your meter! This is the best method to determine if there are leaks in or around your property. If you do find a leak, have it repaired immediately, because every drop counts. You can find information on how to read your meter at: www.emwd.org/water_service/water_bill_read-meter.

For more water-saving tips and information, please visit www.usewaterwisely.org.

Mark your calendars for upcoming events!

March 7, April 4, May 2 Audubon Tours

An early morning visit to the Eastern Municipal Water District's (EMWD) wetlands in San Jacinto provides a unique experience to view up to 120 species of birds. All tours begin at 8:00 a.m. and are approximately two hours long. Reservations are not required. The wetlands are located at the San Jacinto Valley Regional Water Reclamation Facility, 770 N. Sanderson Avenue in San Jacinto.

March 8 Daylight Savings Time Begins

April 25 Community Water Conservation Festival

Plan to attend this annual event on Saturday, April 25 from 10 am to 3 pm for:

- vendor displays of irrigation, synthetic turf, California Friendly plants
- face painters, tattoos and kids activity booths
- a visit from Dewie the Water-wise Dragon
- free drawings and give-a-ways

The event is held at Diamond Valley Lake Visitors Center, 2325 Searl Parkway, Hemet.

May 9 EMWD Demonstration Garden Open House

The demonstration garden features different grades of synthetic turf, California Friendly plants, and water-efficient irrigation systems such as drip lines and smart controllers. The open house will also give customers the opportunity to gather information from a variety of landscape and irrigation vendors. The Demonstration Garden is located at EMWD, 2270 Trumble Road in Perris.

May 15-17 Solar Cup at Lake Skinner



A solar-powered boat race competition where students design, build, equip, and race solar-powered boats. It is a contest of design, speed and endurance that allows the participants to use an alternative power source in a real world application. This FREE event is open to the public and is held at the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's (MWD) Lake Skinner reservoir in the Temecula area.

June 1 Landscape Contest Deadline for entry is June 1

Do you have a water-efficient landscape? If so, we'd love to see it - and showcase it. Show the region that using less water can be beautiful and enter to win cash and prizes. Go to www.usewaterwisely.org for more information.



Water-Saving Device #14

Use a layer of organic mulch around plants to reduce evaporation and save hundreds of gallons of water a year.



There are a number of ways to save water, and they all start with you.

Water-Saving Device #1

Sponsored by

Eastern Municipal Water District
(951) 926-3777
www.usewaterwisely.org



Did you know...

...that, on average, more than one-half of a home's total water use is for outdoor watering? Want to find out more? Take our **Outdoor Water Use Survey** at www.emwd.org!

Water - Use It Wisely

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www.emwd.org

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EMWD reports... is designed to keep
EMWD's customers and the public
informed of matters affecting them.

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Toll free number within
Southern California
800-426-3693

Main Number
951-928-3777

Automated Billing Information

Call main number: 951-928-3777
then press 2

Job Hotline

Call main number, then ext. 2185

Community Involvement, Education

Call main number, then ext. 4226
CommInvolve@emwd.org

Conservation Hotline

Call main number, then ext. 4517

Water Quality

Call main number, then ext. 6337

Systems Outages, Trouble Calls

Call main number then ext. 6265
or 1-800-698-0400



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If a customer exceeds their total (indoor and outdoor) water budget, billing units will be charged at the **Excessive rate**. The maximum number of billing units in this level is equal to one-half the total water budget. For example, if the total water budget was 18 billing units (7 billing units for indoor; 11 billing units for outdoor), then the maximum billing units that can be used and charged at the Excessive rate would be 9 billing units.

If a customer exceeds the maximum number of billing units in the Excessive tier, all remaining billing units will then be charged at the **Wasteful rate**. For example, if the total water budget is 18 billing units, the Excessive level is 9 billing units, and a customer uses 36 total billing units, then 9 units would fall into the Wasteful level. **Variance forms** may be downloaded from www.emwd.org. Forms may also be picked up at District offices or customers may request a form be faxed, emailed or mailed to them.

For more information about water budgets and tiered rates as well as tips for how to use water wisely, please visit www.emwd.org and www.usewaterwisely.org.

Tiered Water Rates

Tiers	All areas except for parts of San Jacinto Valley that only receive well water	Well water customers only (Fruitvale area in San Jacinto Valley)
Indoor Use	\$1.301/billing unit	\$0.876/billing unit
Outdoor Use	\$2.381	\$1.604
Excessive	\$4.267	\$2.875
Wasteful	\$7.805	\$5.258