

Advanced Meter Project Update

One of the most effective tools customers can leverage to help them stay in budget is the LVMWD WaterSmart portal. As part of our Advanced Meter Project, which replaces old meters at the end of their useful lifespan with advanced meters that can provide near real-time water use data and leak detection monitoring, the WaterSmart portal is the customer's window into the water that passes through their meter and onto their property.

As of March 2022, the Advanced Meter Project is running on schedule with approximately 13,000 of 21,000 meters already installed and the remainder slated to be in place by Fall 2022. This means that a large segment of our customers can already access their water use data through the WaterSmart portal and now have a number of tools to help them maximize the efficiency of their water use. Some of the tools WaterSmart provides are:

- **View hourly, daily and historical water use from any internet connected device**
- **Check for unusual or excessive water use which could indicate a leak**
- **Set alerts and communication settings to ensure you are staying in budget**

If you have not had your new advanced meter installed, look for a postcard in your mail about 3 - 4 weeks in advance of installation that provides details. Customers don't have to be home for the new meter to be installed and a District contractor, following proper social distancing protocols, will knock on the door to notify you that the meter is being replaced. The process will take about 20 minutes to complete and will require the water to your home to be shut off. After installation is complete, a door hanger will be left with additional information about the WaterSmart portal and benefits of your new advanced meter. Visit www.LVMWD.com/AdvancedMeter to view a tutorial on how to register and optimize your WaterSmart portal, additional project information and to view the project installation schedule.

The WaterSmart portal is a way for customers to monitor the water they use and prevent wasteful leaks and excessive use. **Registration for WaterSmart is FREE and EASY - just follow the instructions below.**



Create Your New Advanced Meter Account Now!

Visit our new Customer Connect Portal and setup your account in 3 easy steps:

- STEP 1:** Go to www.lvmwd.watersmart.com on your computer or smart device
- STEP 2:** Enter your account number and zip code and click "find my account"
- STEP 3:** Provide an email address and a password to access your portal in the future

Water Efficiency Checklist



Sign Up Now! LVMWD.watersmart.com

Signing up for your LVMWD WaterSmart account gives you the best tools for managing the water use on your property. By getting near real-time water use data from the LVMWD Advanced Meter customers, can see when and how much water is being used and can receive alerts of possible leaks on their property.

Indoors

Free and Easy Ideas

Simple Practices

- Toilets use 26% of U.S. average indoor household water.** Don't use toilets as waste baskets or ash trays.
- Clothes washers consume 22% of indoor water.** Wash only full loads of laundry. Every time you run a washer you use 20 to 40 gallons, depending on the model.
- Teach children to change into play clothes after school so that school clothes can be worn more than once before washing.

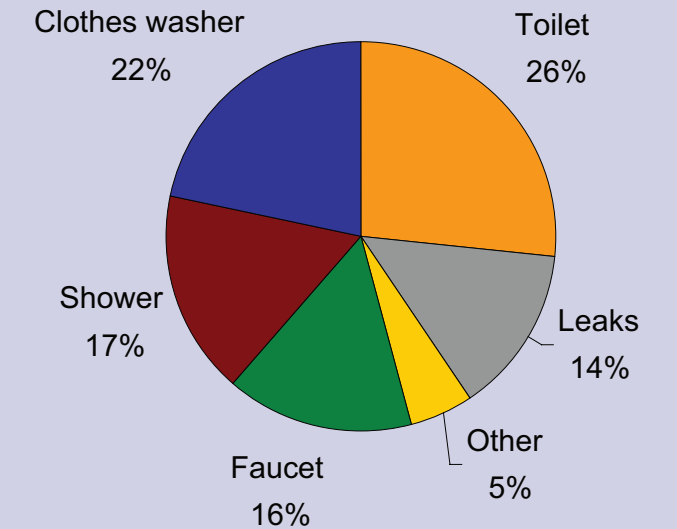
Showers / Bathing

- Showers use 17% of indoor water.** Take shorter showers, five minutes or less.
- Keep the rate of flow down when you shower.
- Shower instead of bathing or fill the tub to a lower level.
- Capture the initial cold water in a bucket to water potted plants or to flush the toilet. Turn it all the way to hot until you get the temperature you want to decrease the wait.

Faucets

- Faucets use 16% of indoor water.** Only run water when actually using it.
- Turning off the tap while brushing your teeth or shaving can save more than 200 gallons of water per month.
- Rinse your razor in a partially filled sink instead of running the water.
- Teach children to turn water faucets off quickly and tightly after each use.
- Don't leave the faucet running while you rinse or wash dishes.
- Keep a pitcher or a water bottle in the refrigerator instead of running tap water until cold.
- Scrape food from dishes first then rinse only as much as needed.
- Limit use of the garbage disposal. Save food scraps to run the garbage disposal only once, or save more water by composting.
- Operate the dishwasher only when it is fully loaded. Every time you run your dishwasher you use between 9 and 25 gallons depending on the model.
- Capture and use otherwise wasted water (waiting for water to warm or cool, vegetable or dish water). Soapy water is generally OK for watering plants as long as there is no bleach or borax.

INDOOR WATER USE



A bit of effort and expense

- Leaks consume 14% of U.S. average indoor water use.** Check/repair toilet leaks, which can waste as much as 200 gallons a day. Use food coloring in the tank or call for toilet tabs. Wait 10-15 minutes, if color shows in the bowl you have a leak. Adjust or replace the flapper. If you hear the toilet running but color didn't appear in the bowl, adjust the float arm to below the overflow line. Otherwise, call a qualified professional.
- Check/Repair faucet and pipe leaks. You can check your entire system by turning everything off and seeing if the water meter still shows flow. (see rear panel)
- Install low-flow shower heads and faucet flow restrictors (aerators) to achieve water savings of 25%-60%.
- Replace older 4-6 gallon per flush toilets or even 1.6 gpf versions with new 1.28 gallon per flush High Efficiency Toilets.
- Install a circulating hot water system with a timer.
- Replace traditional clothes washers using 27-54 gallons per load with new, energy and water conserving high-efficiency washing machines that use less than 27 gallons per load.
- Insulate hot water pipes. Running the "hot" line to clear cool water is wasteful.

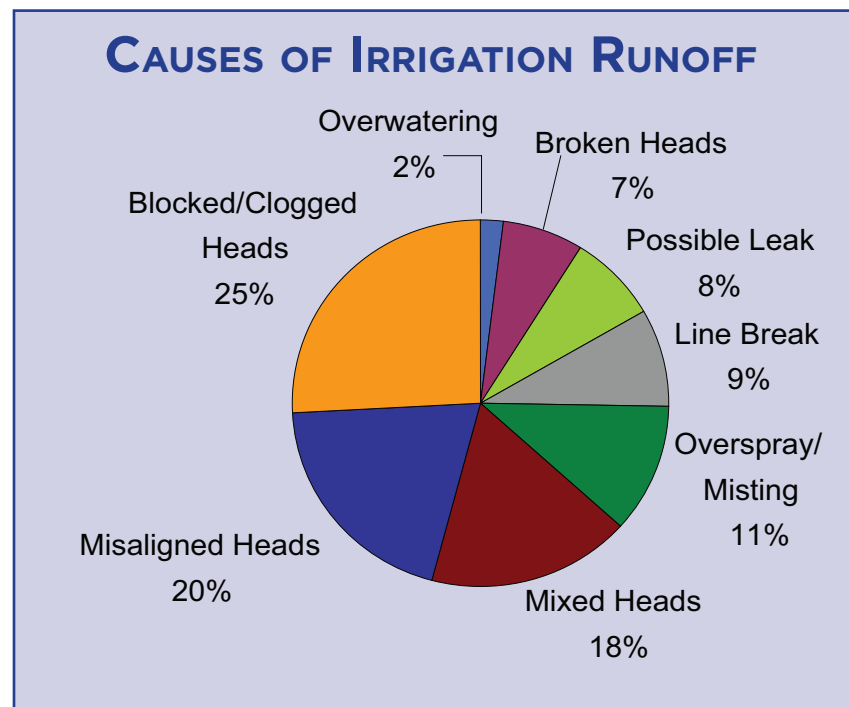
Rebates on water saving devices can be found at:

LVMWD.com/Rebates

Outdoors

Free and Easy Ideas

- Water your lawn only when needed, 2-3 days a week at most. If you step on your lawn and the grass springs back, it does **not** need to be watered.
- Water early in the morning when temperatures and winds are at their lowest levels to reduce evaporation. LVMWD has a prohibition for landscape watering between 10AM and 5PM.
- Turn off your sprinklers when it rains. Rain sensors and shutoff switches are inexpensive and can be retrofitted to almost any system.
- See the indoor water conservation checklist for ways to capture otherwise wasted water to use for watering potted plants.
- Don't water the gutter. Runoff is wasteful and can carry pollutants to creeks.
- LVMWD studies found that 69% of District water is used for irrigation and that irrigation inefficiencies accounted for more runoff than overwatering. See the chart below and check your irrigation monthly for:
 - spray heads blocked by plant growth or clogged with debris
 - poorly aimed nozzles/misaligned and tilted heads/incorrect arc (adjust at head)
 - mixed heads (each station should only have one kind of head)
 - overspray (adjust flow through the valve, use different nozzles, or adjust the flow control screw on the nozzle itself)
 - broken heads (water leaks from the seal around the pop-up stem), broken parts (some expense)
- Other things to check for: heads that weep even when off (a faulty valve or the lack of check valves), sunken heads in a lawn (may need taller risers or turf may need dethatching – some expense)
- Reset your irrigation timers four times a year as the seasons change. LVMWD customers tend to overwater each fall by 25% or more because they don't readjust at the end of September when solar radiation is already halfway to winter lows.
- Use a trigger nozzle on hoses to prevent a running hose when not in use.
- Check your automatic pool fill monthly to ensure proper operation to prevent overflow into poolside drains and out to the gutters
- Use a broom to clean driveways and other hardscape. LVMWD has prohibited hosing down hardscape, except where a public health or safety issue exists.
- Schedule each individual zone in your irrigation system to account for the type of plant material, sprinkler, sun exposure, and soil type for the specific area. The same watering schedule rarely applies to all zones in a system.
- Remove weeds and unsightly plants that compete for available water.
- Maintain sharp blades on pruning shears and lawn mowers to reduce plant water loss.
- Aerate lawns and topdress with compost periodically to decrease compaction and improve penetration of water, air and nutrients into root zones. You can tell your lawn needs aeration when water puddles or runs off after only a few minutes of watering.
- Avoid installing water features. Even recycled water evaporates.



Inexpensive or moderate effort

- Mulch flower and garden areas as well as tree and shrub bases. LVMWD has free Rancho Las Virgenes Community Compost you can use as mulch.
- Avoid planting turf or installing spray irrigation in areas that are difficult to water without runoff such as in isolated strips along sidewalks and driveways and on slopes.
- Confirm monthly that all irrigation systems are distributing water uniformly and inspect, repair and/or adjust subsurface or drip watering systems.
- Immediately shut off irrigation system(s) and adjust whenever irrigation water falls or runs onto hard surfaces such as sidewalks, patios, streets or driveways.
- Repair all water leaks as soon as detected, including hose couplings.
- When buying plants, select those that have low water requirements.
- Cover pools, spas and other water features when not in use to minimize evaporation. A good pool cover will save energy by up to 90% and reduce water loss by up to 70%.
- Check pools and spas for leaks monthly, which can lose up to 1,000 gallons a day. Symptoms of leaks include water level drop over 2 inches per week in the summer (with automatic filling off) or increased need for chemicals. A professional may be needed to find and repair a leak.
- The more frequently you clean swimming pool filters the less often you'll need to replace pool water.

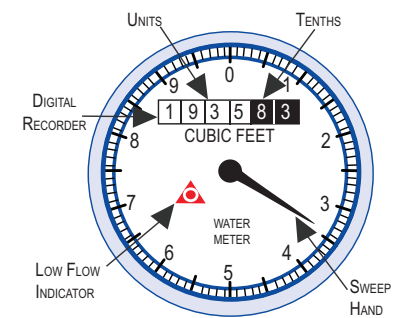
Good Water Saving Investments

- Install a weather-based irrigation controller. Discounts available at www.LVMWD.com/Rachio
- Reduce the amount of lawn you have, especially where it isn't used for play. Turf requires about 5 feet of water a year while we only get about one foot of rain annually.
- Plant drought tolerant and native plants. A Santa Monica study found a 90% reduction in water use, 63% reduction in yard waste and an 81% reduction in labor with a full landscape conversion to drought tolerant plants.
- Employ an irrigation contractor who is a California Landscape Contractors Association Certified Water Manager, or an EPA WaterSense partner. Links can be found to the right. Also ask if he or she is factory trained on your irrigation controller.
- Employ a certified landscape-irrigation auditor to conduct a thorough and comprehensive check for efficiency of water application. He or she can inspect and tune your system to ensure optimal efficiency.

- Replace lawns with native grasses that need 50-75% less water than common turf grasses.
- Determine specific water requirements for all existing landscape plants and water accordingly. Plants with the same water needs should be planted and irrigated together so you don't have to overwater some plants to give the other plants enough water.
- Water all plants deeply but infrequently to encourage deeper, healthier rooting.
- Install drip irrigation for trees, shrubs, slopes and narrow spaces.
- Replace pool filters with newer water conserving models. A single back-flush with older models uses 180 to 250 gallons of water.
- Harvest water from rainfall for landscape irrigation purposes. Systems can range from rain barrels to underground cisterns.

Detecting Leaks with a Traditional Meter

Periodically checking the reading on the water meter could help you find small leaks or problems that waste water but could affect the amount of your bill. The water meter is a good "detective". It can indicate a leak, the relative size of the loss and how much water is being used by your appliances. Most meters record water usage just as your car's odometer records mileage.



Certified Water-Conservation Irrigation Specialists

California Landscape Contractors Association:
<http://www.clca.org/>

EPA WaterSense:
<http://lookforwatersense.epa.gov/pros/>

Irrigation Association:
<http://www.irrigation.org/>