

District Digest

Winter Quarter

January 2016

South Tahoe Public Utility District



Winter Water Conservation Challenge

With such a fantastic, snowy start to our winter season, it's easy to forget that California is still experiencing a major drought. This winter, challenge yourself and your family to make small changes to conserve water. Here are some simple practices that could save your household 10 gallons of water a day or more:

- * If you don't use a dishwasher, fill the sink with soapy wash water, clean your dishes, and put them aside. Then rinse them all together

afterward.

- * Turn off the water while brushing your teeth, soaping up your hands, washing your face or shaving.
- * Shorten your shower by a minute or two. When running a bath, plug the tub before turning the water on, then adjust the temperature as the tub fills up.

If every household in the United States reduced their water use by 10 gallons for just one day, it

would save more than 1 billion gallons of water! There are a number of ways to save water, and they all start with you.

For more information on how to conserve water in your home or business, contact the Water Conservation Specialist at 530.543.6268.

Enjoy the season!



Fix a Leak Week

Drip. Drip. Drip. The average American household wastes more than 10,000 gallons each year from easy-to-fix water leaks. If that doesn't seem like a lot, consider that across the country, easy-to-fix household leaks can add up to more than 1 trillion gallons of water lost every year.

That's why the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is encouraging homeowners to find and fix leaks during the annual Fix a Leak Week, March 14 through March 20, 2016. Sponsored by EPA's WaterSense® program, Fix a Leak Week reminds homeowners of the easy steps they can take to help save water in their community now and for future generations.

Fixing household leaks not only saves water but reduces water

utility bills—by about 10 percent. Be for water and start saving today with three simple steps: Check. Twist. Replace.

1. Check

First, check your home for leaks. An easy way to start is to examine your winter water use. If it exceeds 12,000 gallons per month for a family of four, you probably have leaks. Walk around your home with eyes and ears open to find leaks, and don't forget to check pipes and outdoor spigots. You can also detect silent toilet leaks, a common water-wasting culprit, by adding a few drops of food coloring to the toilet tank and waiting 10 minutes before flushing. If any color appears in the bowl during that time, your toilet has a leak.

2. Twist

Apply pipe tape to be sure plumbing fixture connections are sealed tight and give leaking faucets and showerheads a firm twist with a wrench. If you can't stop those drops yourself, contact your favorite plumbing professional. For additional savings, twist a WaterSense labeled aerator onto each bathroom faucet to save water without noticing a difference in flow. Faucet aerators cost a few dollars or less and can save a household more than 500 gallons each year—the amount of water it takes to shower 180 times!

3. Replace

If you just can't nip that drip, it may be time to replace the fixture. Look for WaterSense labeled models, which use at least 20 percent less water and are independently

certified to perform as well or better than standard plumbing fixtures. Replacing an old, inefficient showerhead with a WaterSense labeled model will shrink your household's water footprint by 2,900 gallons annually while still letting you shower with power, thanks to EPA's efficiency and performance criteria.

Because we want to ensure water supplies last for future generations, the District is showing that we're for water by supporting Fix a Leak Week. Stop by the Customer Service Department during the month of **March** to pick up your Toilet Leak Detection kit. If you are interested in finding more ways to save water in your home, contact the Water Conservation Specialist at 530.543.6268.

South Tahoe Public Utility District

Customer Service Office
1275 Meadow Crest Drive
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Phone: 530.544.6474
Fax: 530.541.0614
info@stpud.dst.ca.us

Basic services for a complex world

Visit us at
[www.stpud.us!](http://www.stpud.us)



The South Tahoe Public Utility District is a special district formed in September 1950, and provides environmentally and fiscally responsible water and wastewater collection, treatment, and recycling for the community of South Lake Tahoe. Board meetings are held on the first and third Thursday of each month at the Board Meeting Room located at 1275 Meadow Crest Drive. We welcome your attendance and participation.

A New Year, A New Look

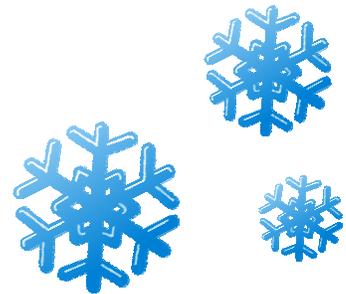
The South Tahoe Public Utility District made some changes to the way the billing statements are presented. The District has removed the graph showing water usage; in its place, there is now information regarding the mandatory watering restrictions with a link to the District website for a more in-depth explanation. Another big change is that any past due amounts from previous billings will show in red so that customers can easily decipher the past due amount that is due immediately.

If you have a water meter at your property, the

new billing will show the meter size as well as the meter's serial number, current reading, read date, previous reading, and the amount of usage that is being billed.

The largest alteration has been made to the back of the billing statement. The District has reformatted this section to make it easier to find information regarding service call fees, postmarks and payment information. In addition, we have included detailed information regarding Water Conservation.

If you have any questions regarding these changes, please call the Customer Service office at 530-544-6474.



Habitat for Humanity: A Brush with Kindness in South Lake Tahoe

Are you a homeowner who needs a little help with the exterior of your home, and are you unable to do it yourself or pay someone else to do it? Do you need exterior paint, minor exterior repairs, or basic landscaping or yard clean up? If this is you, Habitat for Humanity has a program called *A Brush with Kindness*, for qualified homeowners.

A Brush with Kindness in South Lake Tahoe is a program of El Dorado County Habitat for Humanity that helps low-income homeowners

by offering exterior home improvements. Volunteer teams work to improve



the condition of homes by painting, landscaping, and performing minor exterior

repairs at minimal costs to homeowners who would otherwise be unable to complete these repairs on their own. Able-bodied homeowners are encouraged to work alongside the volunteers in a cooperative effort.

For more information on the program, or to find out if you qualify, contact Carolyn at 530-541-4654 or email edchabwkslt@gmail.com.