



Basic services for a complex world



Smart Irrigation Month: Maintain & Upgrade Your System

Irrigation systems need regular maintenance to keep them working efficiently year after year. Damage from lawn equipment or improper winterization can cause leaks and other serious problems. As we recognize July as Smart Irrigation Month, here are some tips to help you maintain and upgrade your system:

- Inspect your system monthly. Check for leaks, broken or clogged sprinkler heads, and other problems. Clean clogged screens and micro irrigation filters as needed.
- Adjust sprinkler heads. Remove or correct obstructions that prevent sprinklers from distributing water evenly. Adjust sprinkler head positions and spray patterns to avoid watering sidewalks or structures and to provide necessary clearance over growing plants.
- Check the pressure. Pressure can change over time and negatively affect system efficiency.
- Inspect the system for leaks. Leaks are a huge water waster. A good contractor can perform regular maintenance checks for leaks, broken or clogged spray heads, and other problems. Ask them to show you common problems to watch for

between visits.

- Install a rain shutoff switch. These inexpensive sensors can be retrofitted to almost any system and help compensate for natural rainfall by turning off your system in rainy weather.
- Consider "smart" technology. Climate or soil moisture sensor-based controllers evaluate weather or soil moisture conditions and then automatically adjust the irrigation schedule to meet the specific needs of your landscape.
- Consider low volume, micro irrigation for gardens, trees and shrubs. Drip (or trickle) irrigation, micro-spray jets, micro-sprinklers and bubbler irrigation all apply a very small amount of water, slowly and precisely, minimizing evaporation, runoff and overspray.
- Have your system audited. Hire a professional to conduct an irrigation audit and uniformity test to verify areas are being watered evenly and appropriately, and make necessary adjustments.
- Look for savings. The South Tahoe Public Utility District is currently offering an Irrigation Efficiency

Rebate Program. Before upgrading your new system, call the Water Conservation Specialist at (530) 543-6268 to learn about the program requirements.

- Winterize in colder climates. An irrigation contractor with specialized equipment will flush out water that could freeze and crack pipes, valves and sprinklers.

Smart Irrigation Month is an initiative of the Irrigation Association, a non-profit industry organization dedicated to promoting efficient irrigation. Learn more at www.smartirrigationmonth.org.



To find an IA-certified professional to design, install, maintain or audit your irrigation system, visit www.irrigation.org/hirecertified.

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. Special districts are a form of local government that are usually created to provide specific services that are not being provided by other governmental entities. The District is governed by a five-member Board of Directors that are elected in staggered four-year terms. Directors must reside within the service area of the District. Special districts provide focused, specialized service and are considered, by many, the most responsive form of local government. Board meetings are held on the first and third Thursday of each month at the Board Meeting Room located at 1275 Meadow Crest Drive. The District welcomes your attendance and participation.

The District has over 17,000 sewer connections and over 14,000 water connections. Our unique and innovative recycled water export system transports an average of 4 million gallons-per-day of reclaimed water 27 miles to the Harvey Place Reservoir, where it is stored for agricultural land application to ranches, under contract, during the dry summer months. The District is proud of this cutting edge system.



District Digest

South Tahoe Public Utility District

Water the Right Day...and the Right Way!

Water is a precious and finite resource in the Sierra. The District's drinking water sources are 100% groundwater; the District does not use any water from Lake Tahoe.

Due to the cost of producing high-quality drinking water for landscape irrigation use, it is crucial we irrigate in an efficient manner.

Water the Right Day!

As we continue to recover from a severe drought, please remember that designated watering days are in effect. Properties with street addresses ending with an **even** number water on **Monday, Wednesday and Friday**. Properties with street addresses ending with an **odd** number water on **Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday**. There is no lawn watering permitted on Saturday. Irrigation exclusively utilizing drip or other low-flow systems are exempt from designated irrigation days.

If you are reseeding your lawn or installing new sod, **you must contact the**

District to request an exemption from the Designated Water Days. Watering outside of the designated days without an exemption may result in a watering violation.

Water the Right Way!

While it is important to water on the correct day for your address, that is only one-half of the equation. It is equally important to water the appropriate amount for Tahoe basin soils.

Lake Tahoe basin soils are composed primarily of decomposed granite and have limited water holding capacity. Soil amendments such as additional organic matter (compost or planting mixtures) can improve this water holding capacity. Lake Tahoe soils require 1/2 inch of water per application. Exact amount of water per application varies by soil type, sun exposure, vegetation type, and other variables, but rarely exceeds a 1/2 inch in any application. Not only is it unnecessary, but it wastes water!

Routinely inspect your sprinkler system



Remember to set your timer only to run on your designated watering days.

for leaks, clogged or misaligned sprinkler heads, broken pipes and other system problems. Current water restrictions prohibit watering impervious surfaces such as driveways, sidewalks and streets, as well as watering in a manner that causes run-off. Contact the Water Conservation staff at 530.544.6474 ext. 6268 or 6363 for more information on water restrictions or to request an exemption.

Have a great summer!

Summer Edition

July 2016

Special points of interest:

- [Smart Irrigation Systems, what they are and how they can help](#)
- [Water Meter Installation: Update](#)
- [Tips on how to maintain and upgrade your irrigation system](#)
- [How you can help Grow Our Library](#)

Inside this issue:

Coming Soon...New Website!	2
Don't Flush That!	2
Grow Our Library	3
Water Meter Installation	3
2016 Consumer Confidence Report	3
Smart Irrigation Month: Maintain & Upgrade Your System	4

Smart Irrigation Systems, A Greener Idea



If you're a typical homeowner, you probably put your automatic sprinkler system into the same category as your home's heating and cooling system. You expect it to work reliably and efficiently with minimum fuss. The latest technology offers just that — and more.

Automated irrigation systems offer convenience while protecting your land-

scape investment. A well-maintained system keeps your lawn and landscape beautiful and healthy, while minimizing water waste.

To raise awareness of the benefits of efficient watering practices, the Irrigation Association has named July Smart Irrigation Month. Make time this summer to be sure you're getting the most out of

your irrigation system, while keeping utility bills low and helping to protect the environment.

Sprinklers Get Smart

The new generation of "smart" irrigation systems monitor weather, soil conditions, evaporation and plant water use and automatically adjust your watering schedule.

Continued on Page 2



Smart Irrigation Systems, A Greener Idea *(Continued from Pg 1)*

The secret to smart systems is the controller. Smart controllers use weather and/or site data to determine when and how long to water. Then, sprinklers apply just enough water at exactly the right time in each zone of your yard.

Smart controllers:

- **Save water.** Smart systems automatically suspend watering during rain, freezing or high wind conditions. Careful scheduling minimizes evaporation and encourages water to soak in, reducing the total amount of water needed. Preventing overwatering actually keeps plants healthier by encouraging stronger roots and discouraging weeds, disease and fungus growth.

- **Save money.** Smart systems can reduce your annual water bill by as much as 30 percent by preventing water waste.
- **Save time.** Once an irrigation installer has programmed your site data into the smart system, the controller adjusts the watering schedule based upon weather conditions and soil moisture without manual intervention.
- **Add convenience.** Smart controllers adapt to seasonal weather changes without requiring reprogramming. And their “set and forget” technology is perfect for complying with any local watering restrictions, as well as for frequent travelers and

vacation or second homes.

You may be able to upgrade your current irrigation system with a smart controller. Some new components are designed as easy add-ons to existing systems. The South Tahoe Public Utility District is currently offering an Irrigation Efficiency Rebate. Visit www.stpud.us/Water_Conservation_Irrigation.html for more information.

Don't Flush That!

Flushing the toilet should be a simple thing, but if you put the wrong things in it, it could create an ugly mess and lead to very expensive repair costs.

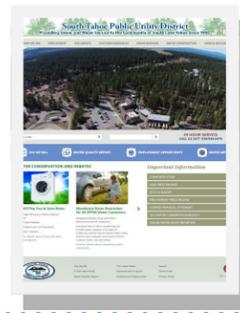
Many materials frequently flushed or poured down the drain can harm the pipes that connect to the sewers, as well as the sewer system. Every property connected to the sewer system can be a potential contributor to sewer problems, and a potential victim of those problems.

Toilets often are used as a trash can. Putting the wrong things down the drain can damage the sewer system, cause sewer backups in your home, and sewer releases to the environment. Not only that, but flushing non-human waste down the toilet wastes water. Every time you flush that toilet, it can waste 3 gallons of water or more, depending on the toilet. It also increases your water bill if you are a habitual trash-flusher.

Here are some key items that you **DON'T** want to put down your toilet:

- “Flushable” Wipes
- Vitamins or Medicines
- Cotton Swabs or Cotton Balls
- Paper Towels
- Diapers
- Feminine Hygiene Products
- Cat Litter
- Cigarette Butts
- Greasy or Oily Substances
- Disposable Toilet Wipes / Bowl Brush Heads
- Hair
- Poisons or Hazardous Waste

“Putting the wrong things down the drain can damage the sewer system and cause sewer backups in your home...”



Coming Soon... New STPUD Website

The District is pleased to announce that we will be launching a new website in the coming month!

The new South Tahoe Public Utility District website will be complete with new features, news and other important District information. Pay your bill, check your drinking water quality, look up water conservation tips or find out what projects are happening in your neighborhood...visit www.stpud.us for this and more!



Grow Our Library with the Friends of the Library

The South Lake Tahoe Friends of the Library raises funds that are used to purchase books and other materials, including DVD's, eBooks, audiobooks, magazines and newspapers. Thanks to the strong support from the South Lake Tahoe Community through voting for a parcel tax for the library, funding for maintaining library hours and staffing has stabilized. However, library allocations from the County have not kept pace with the growing budget for new books and materials.

At the same time, the South Lake Tahoe library is busier than ever, checking out nearly 127,000 items a year.

We need your help.

The Friends of the Library has launched a **GROW OUR LIBRARY** campaign to raise funds to purchase these

much needed materials.

A tax-deductible donation of any amount is a welcome contribution to the South Lake Tahoe Library, enabling it to expand the materials and resources needed to meet growing interests.

To donate, to learn more about the campaign or become a member of the Friends of the Library, visit www.eldoradolibrary.org/friends.htm. You can also visit the library on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/SouthLakeTahoeLibrary/>.



Water Meter Installation Project Update

The District's Water Meter Installation Project will continue with the installation of approximately 5,300 water meters on existing residential service connections that are not yet metered between now and 2021.

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) environmental document for the remaining phases of the Project will be available for a 30-day public review period **beginning July 11, 2016**. Comments on the document should be submitted in writing. Comments can also be heard during the District's Board meeting on August 4th at 2:00 p.m.

Starting July 11, 2016 copies of the CEQA document can be viewed by visiting our website at:

http://www.stpud.us/plan_documents.html.

Please address comments to:

South Tahoe Public Utility District
ATTN: Trevor Coolidge, Project Manager
1275 Meadow Crest Drive
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
E-mail: tcoolidge@stpud.dst.ca.us

“The District's water meter installation project will continue with the installation of approximately 5,300 water meters on existing residential service connections..”

2015 Consumer Confidence Report

The 2015 Consumer Confidence Report, which contains valuable information regarding your drinking water, will be available for viewing at www.stpud.us/2015_CCR.pdf on July 1, 2016.

If you do not have access to the internet, you may request to have a hard copy mailed to you after July 1, 2016 by contacting the Customer Service Department at 530.544.6474 during regular work hours (M - F 8am to 5pm.)

