



EASTERN MUNICIPAL  
WATER DISTRICT

Visit Us On the Internet at [www.emwd.org](http://www.emwd.org)

MARCH 2001

# Reports...

## WATER CONSERVATION SAVES ENERGY, AS WELL AS MONEY

We've been reminding our customers for years that water conservation is a good way to save money around the house. It still is!

But in the wake of California's energy crisis, and possible power rate increases looming, it's important to remember that saving water is a good way to save electricity and natural gas, too.

Electric and gas utilities, as well as magazines and newspapers, are offering all sorts of suggestions for saving energy. However, we'd like to help by reemphasizing some of those that save water as well as energy:

◆ **Shorten showers.** They account for 2/3 of your water heating costs. So, cutting shower time in half will reduce water

### LOW-FLOW TOILET PROGRAM IS BACK; DON'T FLUSH MONEY DOWN THE DRAIN!

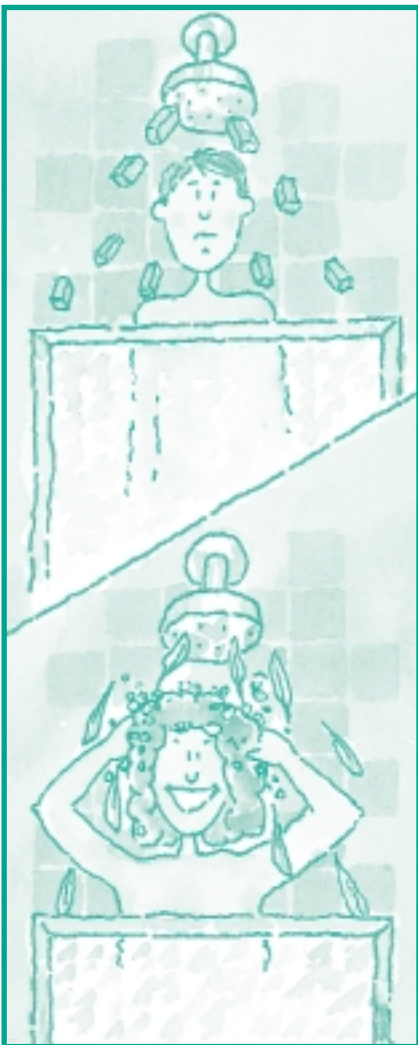
EMWD's annual ultra-low-flush-toilet exchange program is back, but with a new twist!

Beginning April 1 of this year, and continuing through June 30, 2002 or until we reach a maximum of 1,500 participants, EMWD will be offering customers a rebate of \$75 for each ultra-low-flush-toilet (ULFT) they buy for their residence. (The rebate, however, cannot exceed the actual cost of the toilet.)

The one-day giveaway of ULFTs, usually held in May, will not be conducted this year or

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heating costs by 33 percent. Installing a low flow showerhead will further cut hot water use by 10 to 16 percent.

◆ **Laundry.** Use lower clothes washing temperatures, and line-dry clothes whenever you can. Wash only full loads whenever possible. When buying a washing machine,

look for one that allows control of the water level and temperature, and consider one of the new, high-efficiency washers that uses less water, less electricity and less detergent.

◆ **In the kitchen.** Wash only full loads in the dishwasher. Don't use the "rinse-hold" feature because it wastes water. Let

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in 2002.

We've received numerous requests for a rebate program because participating customers can select the toilet color, model and price range of their choice.

Ultra-low-flush-toilets can save their owners as much as \$30 a year on their water bills, depending on the type of older toilet they replace. Older toilets use between 3-1/2 and seven gallons per flush.

The water-stingy ULF toilets can be purchased at nearly any hardware or home improvement store. Only the 1.6-gallon per flush ULF units are now legal for sale in California.

Before rushing out to buy a new toilet, there are some procedures that must be followed in order to qualify for the rebate. Participants must be retail, residential water customers who receive their monthly water bills from Eastern Municipal Water District in order to qualify. They must be replacing an older, higher water-use toilet with the new,

ULF model.

EMWD's goal, after all, is to help customers use less water.

Beginning the first of next month (April 2001), customers can call our special phone number, (909) 928-3777, Ext.

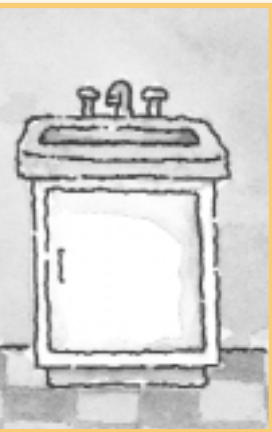
4517, anytime 24 hours a day to request an application. Then, they simply buy their new toilet and mail back the completed application along with the original copy of the purchase receipt. The rebate check will be sent four to six weeks later.

Participating residential customers are not limited to one new toilet under this rebate program. Every toilet in the home that is not a 1.6-gallon ULFT is eligible for replacement and a \$75 rebate (not to exceed the price the participant actually pays for the toilet).



dishes air-dry after the last rinse. (And don't try to save by handwashing dishes; research shows a dishwasher typically uses 37 percent less water.) Avoid opening your refrigerator and freezer as much as possible. Food will stay cold for hours if the door stays closed. Dust the coils and check door seals

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However, only toilets in the customer's own, personal residence, where EMWD directly provides water service, are eligible. Participants must have an individual, residential EMWD water billing account number.

Changing to an ultra-low-flush toilet can save as much as 10,000 gallons of water a year. It's

hard to believe that much water, and money, gets flushed down the drain annually! The U.S. Government's General Accounting Office has confirmed that low-flow plumbing fixtures will save Americans \$231 million over the next 20 years.

Under the old, one-day toilet distribution program, EMWD has given away more than 12,000 ultra-low-flush-toilets during the past eight years. We hope the new rebate program will prove just as popular. ♡

## WATER, SEWER RATES TO HOLD STEADY AGAIN

EMWD's board of directors has acted to hold water and wastewater rates at their current levels for the year 2001.

Eastern's customers have not experienced a rate hike for water since Jan. 1, 1996 while wastewater rates have held steady since Jan. 1, 1997.

The action was taken with full knowledge of the volatile energy market.

The 2001 estimate for electricity costs is \$5 million while natural gas is expected to cost \$1.6 million. Rates must cover those and many other expenses.

While those estimates could skyrocket if energy rates jump, the district is confident it can hold the line on water and wastewater rates it charges its customers. ♡

## BEWARE: FRAUD WARNING

Most plumbers are both honest and skilled. But we've had reports of attempts to defraud customers who have sewage problems.

A plumber will claim to videotape the customer's system, then show pictures of some other system with serious blockages.

Protect yourself: If your plumber is going to videotape your system, be present and watch the process. Be sure you have seen video of your own system before agreeing to repairs. ♡



**WATER DISTRICT  
PHONE NUMBERS**

**EMWD**  
**Main Number**  
(909) 928-3777

**BILLING INQUIRIES**

In Perris and Sun City  
call main number  
Elsewhere (toll free)  
1 - (800) 426-3693

**JOB INQUIRIES**

Call main number, follow  
recorded instructions

**CONSERVATION  
INFORMATION**

Call main number,  
then ext. 4387

**CONSERVATION TIPS**

Call main number,  
then ext. 4517

**COMMUNITY  
INVOLVEMENT,  
EDUCATION**

Call main number,  
then ext. 4226

**WATER QUALITY**

Call main number,  
then ext. 6238

**SYSTEM OUTAGES,  
TROUBLE CALLS**

Call main number, then  
ext. 6265 or (toll free)  
1 - (800) 698-0400

CLIP and SAVE

*Conservation... Continued from page 3*

regularly.

💧 **Your water heater.** About 25 percent of your energy bill goes to heat water. Wrap the hot water tank with jacket insulation; it's readily available and can save you ten percent on water heating costs. Set the temperature level to "normal" (about 120 degrees) unless your dishwasher manual requires hotter water. You can save seven to 11 percent.

Water conservation is important for saving energy on a broader scale, too.

EMWD operates 74 water pumping stations and 18 wells to help ensure the reliability of your water supply. They all run on electricity or gas. If you use less water, we pump less water. Cutting back not only saves energy for us all, but it helps keep water rates in check.

About 3/4 of all the water EMWD serves is imported through hundreds of miles of aqueducts and pipelines, requiring some of the biggest pumping facilities on earth! In fact, the state's Department of Water Resources is the single biggest consumer of electricity in California — in order to bring you that northern California water.

As we cut back on demand, we not only stretch precious fresh water supplies but we minimize the power needed to bring water to us.

For dozens more energy-saving ideas, check [www.energy.ca.gov](http://www.energy.ca.gov) on the Internet. 💧

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