

Conservation Corner

Save Water – Save Dollars

Water Waste Ordinances Help 'Water Cops' Do Their Job

Tucson Water customers are wise water users – understanding that water is a precious natural resource. In order to help you be better conservationists, Tucson Water offers information, assistance and encouragement in a variety of ways. The City of Tucson's Water Ordinances help make sure conservation continues to be an important part of our City's future.

Our customers' year-round focus on wise water use means Tucson has never experienced mandatory water restrictions like the ones we sometimes hear about in other cities. However, in the event of a severe water shortage, Tucson's Mayor and Council has the ability to declare a water supply emergency through the Emergency Conservation Ordinance. The ordinance would temporarily require City residents to reduce or eliminate all outdoor, non-essential use of water. It's good to know that the ordinance is in place if we ever need it. It's also a helpful reminder to keep up our good water use habits so that we can avoid water emergencies in the first place.

The City of Tucson also has a Water Waste Ordinance that defines specific activities that result in water waste. Most of them have to do with irrigation management practices. For example, it's a violation to allow water to escape from any premises onto public or private property, allow water to pond excessively in streets or parking lots, not fix leaking or broken parts of irrigation systems, or operate misting systems in unoccupied commercial areas. Tucson Water's 'water cops' can fine commercial property owners who violate this ordinance.

To learn more about the Water Waste Ordinance, including enforcement information, call us at 791-4331. To report incidents of water waste, call 791-3242.

Your Water Connection

NEWS & TIPS FOR TUCSON WATER CUSTOMERS

Water 101

Water 101 is a regular column where we explore an aspect of our water system in response to questions from Tucson Water customers. **If you have a question you'd like to have answered here, or if you have a suggestion for a topic, please call us at 791-4331 or email TW_Web1@ci.tucson.az.us.**

What is Gray Water?

Conservation means using less water – and getting the most out of the water we do use. One great way to “squeeze every drop” out of our water is to irrigate outdoor landscapes with water that's already been used for bathing and doing laundry. Collecting and re-using *gray water*, as it's known, is a simple and effective way to reduce your household water consumption, and lower your monthly bill.

Gray water must come from a clothes washer, bathtub, shower or sink (but not a kitchen sink). Gray water is not suitable

Water 101 continued inside

Have a question for Water 101 or a suggestion for a topic? Call us at 791-4331 or email to TW_Web1@ci.tucson.az.us

What is Gray Water?

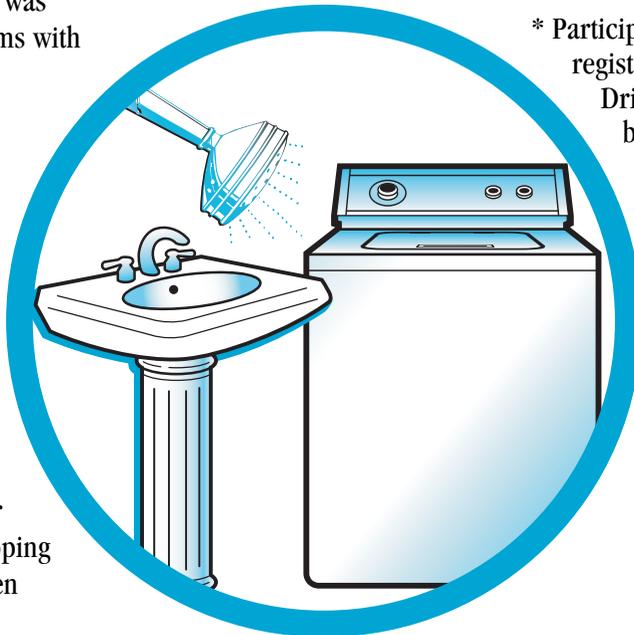
Water 101 continued from front

to drink or re-use indoors, but it's ideal for watering many outdoor plants, including non-food producing trees and shrubs. Water that comes from toilets, dishwashers and kitchen sinks is not considered gray water and should not be re-used.

Most Tucson Water customers generate between 20 and 35 gallons of gray water every day. When that number is multiplied by the number of people living in a household, the potential savings – both in water and money - are significant. The maximum amount of gray water that a family is permitted to use, according to the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, is 400 gallons per day. Most properties can't absorb more than that, so the limit was established to avoid problems with pooling and runoff.

Because gray water is technically a form of wastewater, there are guidelines you should follow to safely deliver it from your home to your yard.

Next month in *Water 101*, we'll talk about how to use gray water properly and tell you where to go for more information about tapping into this valuable – and often underused – resource.



Water\$mart Workshop Schedule

Learn to be more Water\$mart at one of these FREE workshops conducted by the University of Arizona Pima County Cooperative Extension Low 4 Program and sponsored by Tucson Water.

October 13, 2004

*Tucson Botanical Gardens (Porter Hall)
2150 N. Alvernon Way; Tucson*

9:00am–12:00pm Desert Landscaping

November 6, 2004

*Pima County Cooperative Extension
4210 N. Campbell Avenue*

*9:00am–12:00pm Hands-On Drip
Irrigation**

1:00-3:00pm Irrigation Timers

* Participants **MUST** register for Hands-On Drip Irrigation class by calling (520) 622-7701.

Registration for the other classes is recommended but not mandatory.



On the Water Front

It was another dry summer in Tucson and the long-term drought that's plaguing the southwest continues. Experts say we shouldn't be surprised at our meager monsoon rainfall – this may go on for years.

Cities like Phoenix, which depend on surface water from the Salt and Verde Rivers and Colorado River water from the Central Arizona Project canal, are feeling the pinch and are promoting water conservation.

Tucsonans, of course, have practiced water conservation for decades and we've become among the wisest water users in the country. We're fortunate that more than half our water now comes from the Colorado River water that's blended with groundwater at the Clearwater Facility. Using that has let us put many of our groundwater wells on standby, but when the rains don't come and our water use increases, some of those wells have to go back into service.

The drought is just one of the reasons we are now looking ahead to what our future water situation will be. Regional and statewide competition is growing for the West's dwindling water resources. The Colorado River serves six other states besides Arizona, and the on-going drought is putting stress on the River, and on the communities who depend on it.

While Tucson Water is always working to protect our water resources and acquire new ones, we must consider what might happen if there is a shortage of Colorado River water in the future. That's why Tucson Water is creating a Long Range Water Resource Plan that's flexible enough to guide us through these issues and help make sure we have enough quality water for the decades ahead.

We've already shared a lot of information with you about the tools we're using to create the Plan and later this year we'll be sharing our recommendations on how to meet the challenges we face and the decisions we'll need to make together. I believe that, just as we've worked together to make Tucson a leader in wise water use, we can also work together successfully to decide the water resource issues of the future.

Dave Modeer
Director, Tucson Water

Visit the Tucson Water Web Site at <http://www.tucsonaz.gov/water>

Your Water Connection is produced by Tucson Water. To receive a copy, or to receive this information in Spanish, call 791-4331 or mail your request to: Tucson Water, Customer Information, P.O. Box 27210, Tucson, AZ 85726-7210.

City of Tucson TTY number: 791-2639

Si usted desea este documento escrito en español, por favor, llame al 791-4331.



Clearwater Quality Report- July 2004

50	Sodium (mg/L)
246.3	Mineral Content (mg/L)
121 *	Hardness (mg/L)
8.04	pH (S.U.)
Neg	Coliform Bacteria
0.79	Chlorine level average (mg/L)
80.9	Temp (deg F)

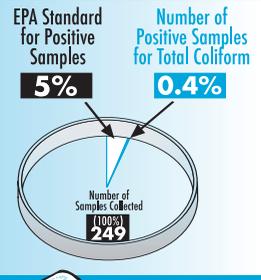
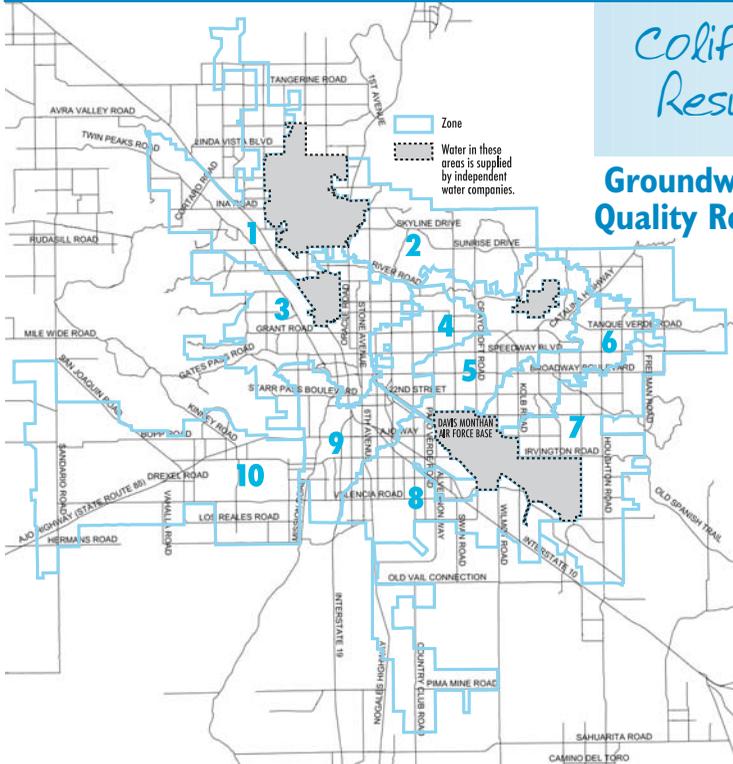
* Values for June 2004

Groundwater Quality Report - June 2004

Water Quality Zone		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	System Wide
Sodium (mg/L)	Average	53	48	48	41	43	43	35	44	48	45	44
	Range	39-83	44-49	33-58	29-51	31-48	34-49	25-46	41-47	40-55	40-49	25-83
Mineral Content (mg/L)	Average	396	304	311	253	277	281	245	353	281	247	289
	Range	196-560	290-321	191-379	184-312	197-326	211-323	174-308	303-444	216-385	216-296	174-560
Hardness (mg/L)	Average	176	123	130	104	121	122	115	181	118	96	128
	Range	70-222	111-130	105-165	88-120	99-148	73-136	82-130	143-268	74-172	75-119	70-268
pH (S.U.)	Average	7.4	7.9	7.7	7.7	7.6	7.7	7.6	7.4	7.6	7.5	7.6
	Range	7.2-7.8	7.6-8.0	7.2-8.0	7.4-7.9	6.9-8.0	7.1-8.1	7.3-7.8	7.2-7.5	7.3-7.9	7.2-8.0	6.9-8.1
Temperature (deg F)	Average	84	88	85	88	86	85	84	86	88	88	86
	Range	78-93	85-92	76-96	82-92	79-90	77-90	80-89	78-91	82-93	87-91	76-96

Coliform Bacteria Testing Results - June 2004

Groundwater Quality Report



Target = 0.6 to 1.0 ppm

Monthly Average

0.7 mg/L

249 Sample Points

Chlorine Level Average

"mg/L" means milligrams per liter;
1 mg/L = 1 teaspoon in 1,302 gallons

To give you a more accurate measurement of the water quality in your neighborhood, the Tucson Water service area has been divided into 10 zones based on differences in water pressure and water quality. For a detailed description of the zone boundaries, call 791-4331.

With the exception of chlorine and coliform bacteria, none of the water quality parameters reported here have U.S. Environmental Protection Agency primary standards set for them. For more information about primary and secondary water quality standards, visit Tucson Water's website at www.tucsonaz.gov/water.