

## You May Be Getting A New Water Meter

In September, Tucson Water launched an expanded Water Meter Replacement program to install new water meters in place of those that are more than 20 years old. As with any part of our water system, water meters do not last forever. By replacing old water meters before they begin to *show signs of wear, normally the under-registering of water usage*, Tucson Water can ensure that your water bill is correct. Accurate meters also help us properly monitor and evaluate the water use demands of the community – information important in planning for the future.

There is no charge to you for replacing your meter. To ensure that this program proceeds as quickly and efficiently as possible, Tucson Water has contracted with Metering Services Inc. to assist with the meter replacements. Employees of Metering Services wear uniforms, carry photo identification badges, and drive vehicles that prominently display their company logo.

You don't need to be home for Metering Services to replace your water meter, but the employee who does the work will try to inform you before any work begins. Your water service must be interrupted for about 30 minutes while the meter is replaced. If we arrive at a time that's inconvenient, the employee will reschedule the meter replacement. If we do the work while you are not home, we'll leave information informing you that your meter has been replaced.

If you have a question about work done in replacing your water meter, please call Metering Service Inc. at 481-3476. For questions about the replacement program, call Tucson Water at 791-4621.

## 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](mailto:TW_Web1@ci.tucson.az.us).**

### How Can I Use Gray Water?

The water that comes from your clothes washer, shower, bathtub or sink (other than the kitchen sink) is called "gray water," and it can be re-used to water outdoor landscapes. By irrigating with gray water, you can save Tucson's precious drinking water for other uses, which helps lower your overall water consumption - and your monthly bill.

You do not need a permit for residential gray water use, but because gray water is technically a form of wastewater, there are some simple guidelines that must be followed to use it safely and effectively. Please remember that water that comes

*Water 101 continued inside*

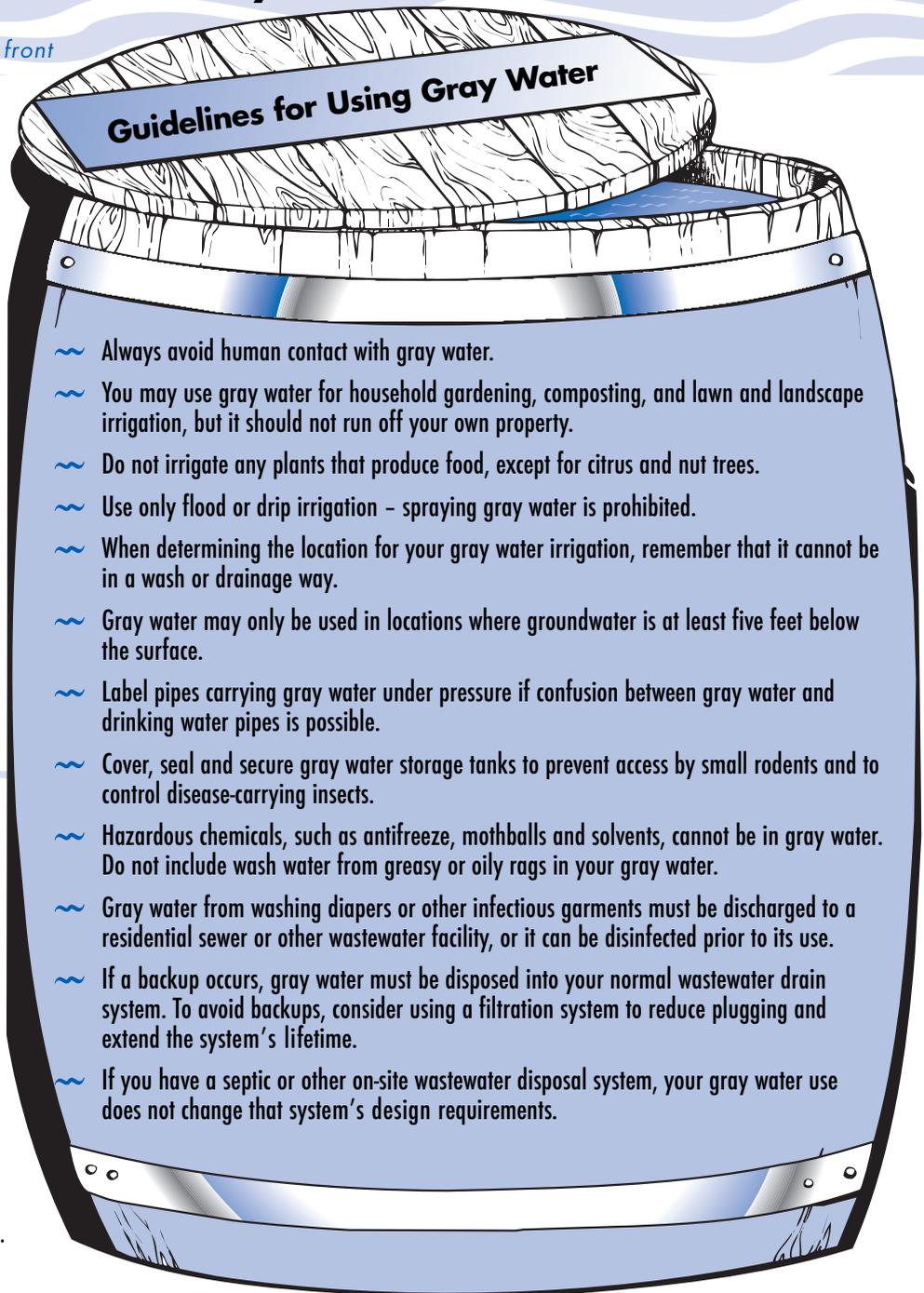
Have a question for Water 101 or a suggestion for a topic? Call us at 791-4331 or email to [TW\\_Web1@ci.tucson.az.us](mailto:TW_Web1@ci.tucson.az.us)

## How Can I Use Gray Water?

Water 101  
continued from front

from the kitchen sink, dishwasher or toilet is NOT considered gray water – it cannot be re-used. You should also keep in mind that gray water can only be used for outdoor irrigation, not for dust control, cooling or other water uses.

For more information about how to use gray water, please contact the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality's local Community Outreach Coordinator, Linda Cline, at (520) 628-6716.



### Guidelines for Using Gray Water

- ~ Always avoid human contact with gray water.
- ~ You may use gray water for household gardening, composting, and lawn and landscape irrigation, but it should not run off your own property.
- ~ Do not irrigate any plants that produce food, except for citrus and nut trees.
- ~ Use only flood or drip irrigation – spraying gray water is prohibited.
- ~ When determining the location for your gray water irrigation, remember that it cannot be in a wash or drainage way.
- ~ Gray water may only be used in locations where groundwater is at least five feet below the surface.
- ~ Label pipes carrying gray water under pressure if confusion between gray water and drinking water pipes is possible.
- ~ Cover, seal and secure gray water storage tanks to prevent access by small rodents and to control disease-carrying insects.
- ~ Hazardous chemicals, such as antifreeze, mothballs and solvents, cannot be in gray water. Do not include wash water from greasy or oily rags in your gray water.
- ~ Gray water from washing diapers or other infectious garments must be discharged to a residential sewer or other wastewater facility, or it can be disinfected prior to its use.
- ~ If a backup occurs, gray water must be disposed into your normal wastewater drain system. To avoid backups, consider using a filtration system to reduce plugging and extend the system's lifetime.
- ~ If you have a septic or other on-site wastewater disposal system, your gray water use does not change that system's design requirements.



# On the Water Front

There's a growing awareness across Arizona that a reliable and renewable water supply is absolutely critical to sustaining our state's quality of life and economy. In southern Arizona, because we lived so many years with groundwater as our only water resource, we long ago learned how very true that statement is.

Long-term drought in the southwest, the dropping levels of the lakes on the Colorado River and the booming growth in metropolitan areas like Las Vegas and Southern California are bringing the need for ensuring sustainable water resources to the forefront statewide. Maintaining our allocation of Colorado River Water and preserving our environment, while meeting the water needs of all citizens, is becoming a more urgent concern.

Governor Janet Napolitano has formed a Drought Task Force to look at potential impacts of the drought and other water supply concerns on Arizona's water resources. The recommendations from that group, which should be released soon, will include a statewide water conservation strategy that will bring state resources to bear on this important issue.

In Tucson, we've been good water conservationists for many years, but we'll need to get better at it in the years ahead. Tucson Water will be increasing the

amount of information we provide to you, our customers, about the importance of wise water use and new ways to reduce your water use at home and work.

Tucson Water's Long Range Water Resource Plan, which we've been working on for some time, will form a basis for community-wide discussion and decision-making on what steps we should take to ensure a reliable, quality supply of water for our future. We'll begin talking with you about that very soon.

There are many decisions to be made and much work ahead of us, both here at home in Tucson and across the state. I believe that, working together, Tucson can successfully meet our own water challenges and provide an example to the rest of Arizona of wise water use and good planning.

Dave Modeer  
Director, Tucson Water

## Clearwater Quality Report September 2004

50*	Sodium (mg/L)
238.6	Mineral Content (mg/L)
121*	Hardness (mg/L)
7.75	pH (S.U.)
Neg*	Coliform Bacteria
0.74	Chlorine level average (mg/L)
80.0	Temp (deg F)

\* Values for August 2004

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.

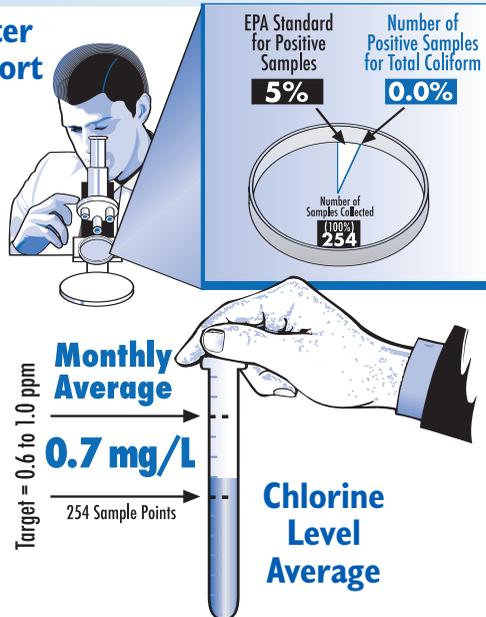
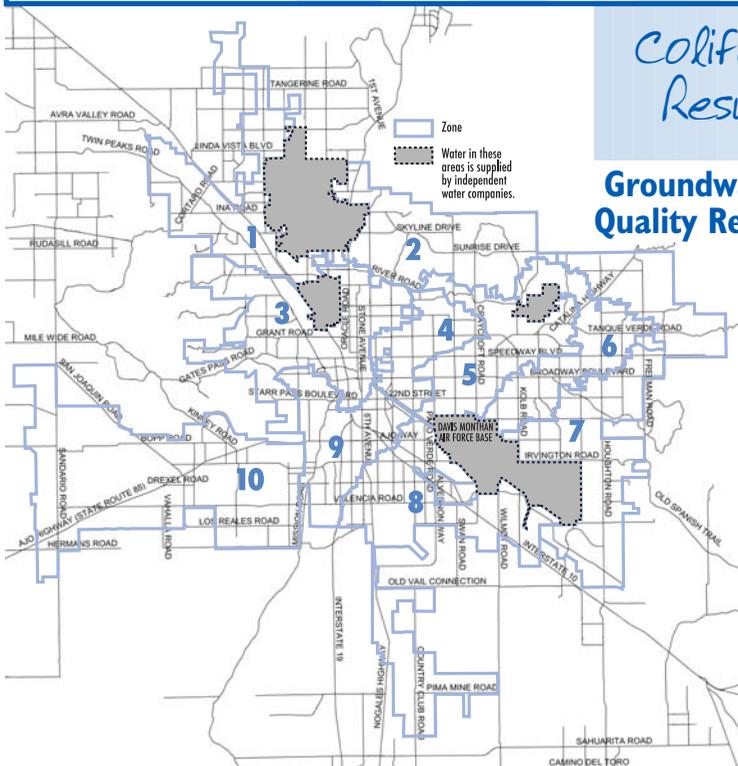


# Groundwater Quality Report - July 2004

Water Quality Zone		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	System Wide
Sodium (mg/L)	Average	60	48	45	41	41	42	32	45	47	42	43
	Range	47-83	45-50	24-54	30-51	26-48	27-48	22-46	42-46	41-55	41-42	22-83
Mineral Content (mg/L)	Average	416	304	307	262	273	287	245	346	283	237	289
	Range	221-608	259-330	170-383	186-312	195-335	210-330	174-311	230-425	216-371	216-294	170-608
Hardness (mg/L)	Average	255	122	129	101	115	119	117	194	103	79	125
	Range	188-364	117-131	103-161	70-119	95-135	81-140	84-143	153-258	75-126	77-80	70-364
pH (S.U.)	Average	7.4	7.8	7.5	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.3	7.5	7.5	7.6
	Range	7.1-7.9	7.4-8.1	7.0-7.8	7.3-8.0	7.0-8.0	7.2-8.0	7.3-7.9	7.2-7.9	7.1-8.0	7.2-7.7	7.0-8.1
Temperature (deg F)	Average	85	89	88	90	87	87	87	88	90	90	88
	Range	77-91	85-92	76-94	84-96	79-94	79-92	83-93	84-94	83-96	88-92	76-96

## Coliform Bacteria Testing Results - July 2004

### Groundwater Quality Report



"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](http://www.tucsonaz.gov/water).