

## On the Water Front

# Annual Water Quality Report Offers



## Important Information

During June, all Tucson Water customers will receive a **2009 Annual Water Quality Report** in the mail. I am pleased that the **2009 Report** shows that our drinking water is safe, meeting all the primary standards established by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). In addition, Tucson Water also works to comply and report on the USEPA's secondary regulations, non-enforceable guidelines that relate to water taste, odor and appearance.



The USEPA requires that all drinking water suppliers across the nation provide an easy-to-understand water quality report annually to their customers. In our desert community, where water is such a precious and delicate resource, it's important to be a smart consumer: asking about water sources, learning what impurities are measured and regulated by state and federal entities, being aware how water is treated, and understanding how to access more information. The **Water Quality Report** is just one tool to help consumers be water-wise and to make better health-based decisions about using drinking water.

Since water quality and safety are a community effort, we'd like to hear from you if you have a question or comment about the **Annual Water Quality Report**.

**Jeff Biggs, Director  
Tucson Water**

# Your Water CONNECTION

News & Tips for Tucson Water Customers  
June 2010 [www.tucsonaz.gov/water](http://www.tucsonaz.gov/water)

## Water 101

# Water Quality Monitoring

The technicians, chemists, microbiologists, environmental scientists and other professionals associated with the Water Quality Management and Operations Division perform more than 20,000 individual tests annually to ensure high quality



drinking water. The team oversees testing, monitoring, reporting and compliance over Tucson Water's vast system from source to tap: approximately 200 groundwater wells, 4500 miles of pipes and 145 booster stations. Field analysts monitor for a wide range of micro-organisms

and chemicals at any of 267 monitoring points, in addition to obtaining investigative samples at wells, water mains, reservoirs and customer taps. There are also 23 online monitoring stations providing real time feedback. In 2008, Tucson Water voluntarily added a new layer of monitoring at key points of entry that provide data about surface and groundwater integrity. Data is processed through Tucson Water's state-licensed drinking water laboratory.

The Division works collaboratively with all state, county, and federal agencies to ensure compliance. Ultimately, Tucson Water's primary responsibility is to the public by consistently delivering safe, high-quality drinking water from the aquifer to tap.

Have a question for Water 101 or a suggestion for a topic?  
Call us at 791-4331 or e-mail to [TW\\_Web1@tucsonaz.gov](mailto:TW_Web1@tucsonaz.gov)

**Free – Easy – Safe**

# Disposal of Home Hazardous Waste

Almost every home contains hazardous products or products that can harm human health or the environment if improperly handled. Products used in cleaning, home maintenance, home improvement, automobile maintenance, pool care, lawn and garden care, pest control, hobbies, and more can harm people and the environment. Residents should know how to properly dispose of what is commonly called household hazardous waste (HHW).



Disposing of HHW products is easy and convenient. Here are some tips:

- Know what materials are considered hazardous: common HHW products are paint, automotive fluids, solvents, pesticides, and non-alkaline batteries. Dispose of HHW containers at drop-off sites that have these words or warning

graphics: TOXIC, ACID, FLAMMABLE, CAUSTIC, POISON, CAUTION, DANGER OR WARNING.

Together, the City of Tucson and Pima County sponsor the HHW Program, which offers safe and easy disposal of these products. Each year, through this program, nearly 1.5 million pounds of HHW materials are diverted from our landfills and wastewater treatment plants – protecting our delicate desert environment. Materials collected at drop-off sites include products that contain

acid, mercury, solvents, paint products, and flammable materials. These are then disposed of properly or recycled. In fact, 98% of materials collected by the HHW program are recycled!

## HHW Drop-Off Sites and Hours

- HHW Main Facility**, 2440 W. Sweetwater Dr., Friday & Saturday, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
- Los Reales Landfill**, 5300 E. Los Reales Rd., Monday–Saturday, 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**First Saturday Outreach Sites**  
Open first Saturday of each month, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

- Eastside City Hall, 7575 E. Speedway Blvd.
- Tucson Water Plant #2, 1102 W. Irvington Rd.
- Pusch Ridge Christian Church, 440 W. Calle Concordia

For commercially-generated waste, call (520) 690-5749 for information about the Small Business Waste Assistance Program.

**Antifreeze, Batteries, Oil & Paint Only Sites:**

- Pima County Landfill Sites**, Monday–Saturday, 7:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Sahuarita Landfill, 16605 S. La Cañada Dr.
- Tangerine Road Landfill, 10220 W. Tangerine Rd.

**Pima County Transfer Station Sites**, Thursday–Saturday, 7:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

- Catalina Transfer Station, 14425 N. Oracle Rd.
- Ryan Field Transfer Station, 6455 S. Continental Rd.

- Please deliver wastes only during hours of operation. All wastes should be properly identified and labeled. Containers should not leak.

This program offers a free, easy and convenient way to protect our environment and our resources. Be one of the 35,000 people in our community who bring hazardous materials to HHW collection sites for safe disposal and recycling.



*Your Utilities Services statement includes fees for your water, wastewater, and environmental services.*

The Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department – For more information about the regional wastewater system, call (520) 740-6500 or visit [www.pima.gov/www](http://www.pima.gov/www).

Environmental Services (ES) - Learn about how ES is protecting our groundwater and the environment at [www.tucsonaz.gov/esd](http://www.tucsonaz.gov/esd) and (520) 791-3171.

# Sign-up Now for Free WaterSmart Classes

Take advantage of free WaterSmart classes taught by local conservation experts. Workshops are popular and seating is limited, so advance registration is strongly recommended. To register or for more info, contact Kathryn or Teri at (520) 626-5161. On the web, WaterSmart can be found at <http://ag.arizona.edu/pima/smartscape/>.

All classes are sponsored by Tucson Water and taught at Pima County Cooperative Extension, 4210 N. Campbell Avenue in Tucson.

## June 9 (Wednesday)

Desert Rain Gardens	9:00 am - 11:00 am
Harvesting Rainwater for Landscape Use	12:00 pm - 2:00 pm (bring lunch)

## July 17 (Saturday)

Residential Landscape Irrigation	8:30 am - 12:00 pm
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## July 22 (Thursday)

Basic Landscape Maintenance	9:00 am - 12:00 pm
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## August 14 (Saturday)

Desert Rain Gardens	9:00 am - 11:00 am
Basic Landscape Maintenance	12:00 pm - 3:00 pm (bring lunch)

## September 25 (Saturday)

Residential Landscape Irrigation	8:30 am - 12:00 pm
Basic Landscape Maintenance	9:30 am - 11:30 am

## October 27 (Wednesday)

Desert-wise Landscaping	9:00 am - 12:00 pm
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## October 30 (Saturday)

Desert Rain Gardens	9:00 am - 11:00 am
Harvesting Rainwater for Landscape Use	12:00 pm - 2:00 pm (bring lunch)

## November 13 (Saturday)

Residential Landscape Irrigation	8:30 am - 12:00 pm
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## December 4 (Saturday)

Desert-wise Landscaping	9:00 am - 12:00 pm
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Visit the Tucson Water website at [www.tucsonaz.gov/water](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.



## Free brochure

# Efficient Landscape Watering Made Easy

When nearly 60% of all outside watering in Tucson is used for irrigation, efficient landscape watering is one of the easiest ways to save water and money. Sensible landscape watering is as easy as 1-2-3:

## 1 How much water do your plants need?

Plant size, type and root zone impact how deep and wide to water. The simple 1-2-3 Rule:

- water to 1 ft. depth – small plants like annuals, groundcover and cacti
- water to 2 ft. depth – medium plants such as shrubs
- water to 3 ft. depth – large plants such as trees



After watering for about an hour, push a probe into the wet soil to gauge the depth level. If water has not penetrated deep enough, water a little longer.

## 2 Figure out how much water your home irrigation system applies

because the rate determines how long to run the system. For example, compare these methods and rates to apply 10 gallons of water: 2 minutes for a watering hose; 10 minutes with a bubbler; 10 hours with a 1-gallon per hour emitter. The amount of time needed to have water penetrate to the appropriate depth is the “run time” on your timer.

## 3 Match your irrigation system water output to your landscape and plants' needs.

Periodically use the probe to gauge the level of soil moisture. And, as the weather changes and plants evolve, you will need to adjust how frequently you water – not the run time.

From calculating run times to seasonal water guidelines, find out specifics in a free brochure,

Landscape Watering by the Numbers. Call (520) 791-4331 to order or go to Tucson Water's website at [www.tucsonaz.gov/water](http://www.tucsonaz.gov/water) and click on the Conservation tab for a downloadable PDF of this brochure.



# Water Smart this Summer

## Access free brochures, workshops & online info about irrigation and xeriscaping

For More Info [www.tucsonaz.gov/water](http://www.tucsonaz.gov/water) (520) 791-4331

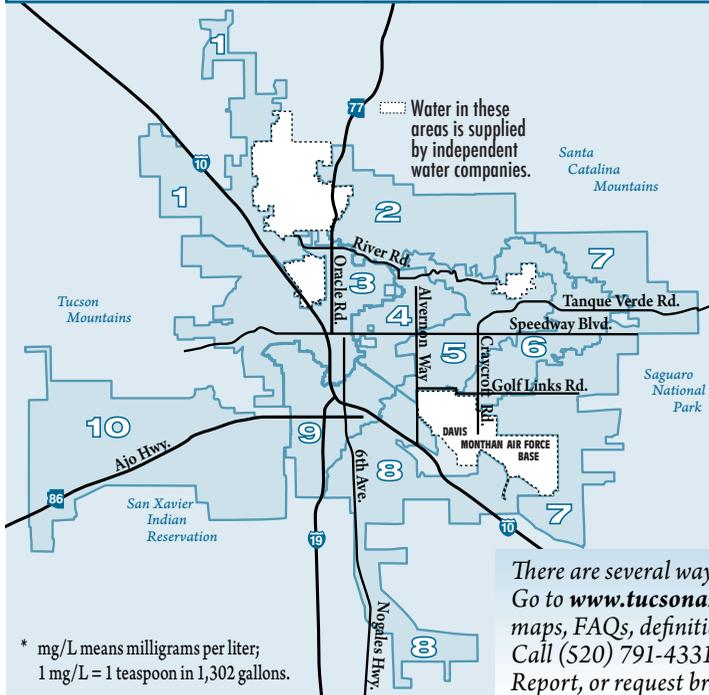
Smart Irrigation Thriving Plants Save Money Save Water

## Water Quality Report - April 2010

Ensuring drinking water is clean and safe from the aquifer to your tap is the top priority of Tucson Water. More than 20,000 individual tests are performed annually, focusing on the water quality from these two main sources: **ground water** and **the blend** of recharged Central Arizona Project (CAP) water and ground water from the Clearwater Recharge and Recovery Facility (CRRF).

**Ground Water Source Report** – Ground water comes from about 200 wells in the Tucson metropolitan area. This reporting area is divided into 10 zones:

Elements Sampled	ZONE AVERAGE										System Average
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Sodium (mg/L*) 77SP	54	62	56	48	39	45	38	48	58	45	49
Mineral Content (mg/L*) 247SP	350	461	446	368	305	375	294	467	439	333	384
Hardness (mg/L*) 77SP	181	219	199	155	120	143	142	226	215	138	171
pH (S.U.) 247SP	7.7	8.0	7.9	7.9	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.7	7.8	7.9	7.8
Temperature (deg F) 247SP	77	78	77	79	77	76	76	77	78	77	77



None of the water quality tests to the left have U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) primary standards set for them. However, the USEPA has primary standards for levels of coliform bacteria and the disinfectant chlorine for ground water sources:

**COLIFORM**  
EPA standard for positive samples: 5% Monthly  
Positive results: 0%  
247 samples

**CHLORINE**  
Tucson Water target average: 0.8 to 1.2 mg/L Monthly  
Average: 0.9 mg/L  
247 samples  
EPA Standard Max. 4.0 mg/L

**Clearwater Report** – More than 50% of our total water supply is a blend of recharged CAP water and native ground water from the CRRF. Using this recovered blended water means that we reduce ground water pumping:

<b>Sodium</b>	<b>64 mg/L</b>	(Apr. 27)
<b>Mineral Content</b>	<b>477.7 mg/L</b>	(Apr. 8-May 9 avg.)
<b>Hardness</b>	<b>220 mg/L</b>	(Apr. 27)
<b>pH</b>	<b>8.01 S.U.</b>	(Apr. 8-May 9 avg.)
<b>Coliform Bacteria</b>	<b>Negative</b>	(Apr. 13)
<b>Chlorine Level</b>	<b>1.12 mg/L</b>	(Apr. 8-May 9 avg.)
<b>Temperature</b>	<b>80.0 F</b>	(Apr. 8-May 9 avg.)

There are several ways to obtain information about water quality. Go to [www.tucsonaz.gov/water](http://www.tucsonaz.gov/water) and click on the Water Quality Tab for maps, FAQs, definitions, reports, online monitoring station results, and more. Call (520) 791-4331 to schedule speakers, ask for an Annual Water Quality Report, or request brochures on water quality.

\* mg/L means milligrams per liter;  
1 mg/L = 1 teaspoon in 1,302 gallons.