

It Matters To You.
It Matters To Us.



Is Tap Water as Safe as Bottled Water?

The choice to drink tap water or bottled water

isn't just a matter of personal preference. To many it is a question of safety.

Bottlers of water generally capitalize on consumer concerns about municipal water supplies thus creating demand for their product. Some bottled waters, however, differ from tap water merely by being distributed in bottles rather than through pipes, according to a report commissioned by the World Wildlife Fund International.

The simple truth is that tap water and bottled water are generally comparable in terms of safety. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) oversees bottled water and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulates tap water. Even though two different organizations, each agency uses similar standards for ensuring safety.

Both variations of water have to meet specific standards of quality and safety from the source all the way through the finished product. Additionally, consumers have chosen tap over bottled water in double blind taste tests and often cannot tell the difference between the two.

The choice is yours, but tap water costs much less and is more environmental friendly!

Call 811 before you dig!

It is important that you or your contractor contact Underground Service Alert at 811 at least 48 hours before you begin digging in your yard. Alerting them prior to digging will prevent damage to our utility infrastructure, save you repair costs and/or eliminate emergency disruption of service.

Every year, Del Paso Manor Water District receives numerous damage reports caused by homeowners or contractors to our pipelines or other infrastructure while digging in their backyards. These accidents result in an emergency service shut down throughout the area and increases District costs.

When you call 811, please have your address, construction start and end date, type of work and your contact information. You will also need to mark the work area with white paint. Help you and your neighbors by calling 811 before you dig!

We will be exploring new bill pay options

Per the request of some ratepayers, the board will explore online bill pay and other payment options. In the past, we determined that accepting credit and debit card payments was not cost effective due to fees imposed by individual financial institutions.

As a component of our Master Plan update, the District will be looking to update systems which include bill pay services. Until a decision has been made, we suggest you consider using your bank's bill pay service.

With your bank's bill pay, you are able to pay your water bill online and your bank mails a physical check to the District. The check that comes to the District from your bank does not contain any of your personal banking information, only your name and District account number. It is a safe and complementary option.

WHAT DOES \$1 GET YOU?



Ken



Ken's Conservation Tips

Fall weather brings conditions that require adjustments for preventing water waste.

- 1 **During rainy weather, turn off your sprinkler timer.**
- 2 **Avoid watering on windy days.**
- 3 **Water landscaping and plants only when necessary. Do not over-water.**

Check the soil: First use a moisture meter or good old eight-inch screwdriver to see if your yard needs water. If meter says it's moist or the screwdriver easily goes into the soil, you can skip running the sprinklers.

Inspect your sprinklers: Check your sprinklers on a regular basis for problems like clogged and broken heads or ones that are misaligned and spraying the sidewalk or your car instead of your yard.

Use the cycle and soak method: Cycle and soak is a process of running your sprinklers in shorter increments spaced out over a period of time to allow for better absorption by the soil. For example, if you're running your sprinklers for eight minutes, break the watering cycle into two increments of four minutes, spaced an hour apart. This allows the water to better permeate through the soil and get to where it's needed.

4 **Freezing weather can cause pipes to burst.**

Wrap all exposed pipes with pipe insulation (sold at hardware stores).

Irrigation valves and hose bibs (outside faucets) should also be wrapped or covered.

See **BeWaterSmart.info** for more water saving tips.

Is El Niño on its way?

Most of us only know El Niño as a sometimes seasonal storm causing heavy rains. However, the truth behind El Niño is a climate change cycle. It begins when warm water in western tropical Pacific Ocean shifts east toward the coast of South America along the equator. This phenomenon typically occurs in four-year cycles and heavily impacts California. The last significant El Niño in California took place in winter 2016.

In Northern California, we have felt the effects of El Niño in our record high summer temperatures. In Southern California, strong Santa Ana winds predict the El Niño storms will hit early.

With the winter months around the corner and the likelihood of El Niño caliber rain storms, we want to remind you of a few water saving tips, how to use the rainfall and how to protect your landscape during a heavy precipitation:



Install an automatic rain-shutoff device

This device is designed to stop the cycle of an automatic irrigation system controller when a specific amount of rainfall has occurred. These devices are typically mounted in an area that receives direct rainfall. This will save your landscape from being overwatered and conserve water.



Take shorter showers

During the colder months, it can be easy to take longer showers while trying to warm up. To cut down on water use in the shower, practice the following tricks:

- Create an upbeat playlist under five minutes. Once the playlist is over, your shower should be, too!
- Use an egg timer, stopwatch or a smartphone set for 5 minutes.
- Establish a routine. Wash everything in the same order. Muscle memory will kick in and you'll be out of the shower in the same time no matter the season.



Defrost frozen food in the refrigerator

During the holidays, there is a lot of food to prepare and defrost. Instead of running water to defrost food in the sink, think ahead and put the food in the fridge the morning of your big meal.

Stay Informed And Engage With Us



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