



Points of Interest

- Water Conservation
- Rate Increase
- Tip of the Season

**Sewer blockage or overflow?
Call us first at 644-8949**

Currents

TEN WAYS TO CONSERVE WATER NOW

Water conservation is the most cost-effective and environmentally sound way to reduce the demand for water. Using less water also puts less pressure on sewer treatment facilities, and uses less energy for water heating.

Saving water also saves energy: 6.5% of California's energy is used to pump and treat water. On the flip side, saving energy (or using alternative energy) saves water; electricity production from fossil fuels and nuclear energy is responsible for 39% of all fresh water withdrawals in the United States.

There are many effective ways to save water in and around your home. Look through this list for ways that will work for you. Thanks to the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California for some of these tips.

1. Water on your lawn only

when it needs it. Step on your grass. If it springs back when you lift your foot, it doesn't need water. Set your sprinklers for more days in between watering. *You can save 750 to 1,500 gallons a month.*

2. Fix leaky faucets and plumping joints. *You can save up to 20 gallons a day for every leak stopped.*

3. Don't run the hose while washing your car. Use a bucket of water and a quick hose rinse at the end. *Saves 150 gallons each time.* And here's a tip to protect creeks and the bay: if you wash your car at home, don't dump the dirty bucket in the storm drain. Instead, pour it out in your sink. That way the dirty water won't harm the Bay.

4. Install water-saving shower heads of flow restrictors; *save 500-800 gallons per month.*

5. Run only full loads in the washing machine and dishwasher. *You can save 300-800 gallons per month.*

6. Shorten your showers. Even a one or two minute reduction can *save up to 700 gallons per month.*

7. Use a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways and sidewalks. *This saves 150 gallons or more each time; at once a week that's more than 600 gallons per month.*

8. Don't use your toilet as an ashtray or wastebasket. *Saves 400 to 600 gallons a month.*

9. Capture tap water. While you wait for hot water to come down the pipes, catch the flow in a watering can to use later on houseplants or your garden. *Saves 200 to 300 gallons per month.*



10. Don't water the sidewalks, driveway or gutter. Adjust your sprinklers so that water lands on your lawn or garden where it belongs ... and only there. *Saves 500 gallons per month.*



Call 644-8949 ext. 292 for your free Landscape Water Control Kit brochure.

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2007 RATE INCREASE

On December 20, 2005, District Trustees voted unanimously to increase sewer rates by 6% in July 2007. The Trustees considered a 3% increase for July 2008, but instead requested a rate review in 2008.

Prior to the Trustees' approval, the issue was reviewed in depth and approved by the District's Citizens Advisory Committee, a group of Vallejo residents who act in a volunteer capacity. Two public hearings were also held.

Monies generated from the rate increase are used in two ways:

1. As part of a court-ordered settlement, the District issued a \$20 million bond to fund construction of a nine million gallon tank (above)

designed to prevent sewer overflows during heavy storms.

2. Continue to operate, maintain and implement



upgrades to the sewer system that protects Vallejo's public health and property.

Residential customers currently pay \$32.78 per month for sewer service. After July 1, 2007, rates will be calculated at \$34.75 per month, a \$1.97 increase.

Sewer rates will increase by 6% for commercial and industrial customers as well. These rates are based on usage.

Compared to other cities, Vallejo's sewer rates are about average: Benicia pays \$39.36 per month, American Canyon pays \$33.60 per month, and Napa pays \$34.73 per month.

Pro-Rating

The sewer rate increase will be pro-rated based on when you are billed. You will notice an increase in the July-August 2006 billing cycle; however, the full impact of this year's rate increase will be reflected in your September-October bill.



Tip of the Season

Healthy creeks, lakes and shorelines are important to Vallejo residents. However, many common activities can lead to water pollution if you're not careful. Pet waste and pet care products can be washed into storm drains that flow directly to our creeks and the Bay. Unlike water in sanitary sewers (from sinks, showers and toilets), water in storm drains is not treated before entering our waterways.

Call 644-8949 ext. 292 today for your free brochure: What's the Scoop? Tips for a Healthy Pet and Healthy Environment.



Currents is produced bimonthly by the Vallejo Sanitation & Flood Control District. For more information, visit www.vsfcd.com or call (707) 644-8949.

WHAT NOT TO FLUSH



When Vallejo students visit the district, the most popular stop is the Toy

Wall, a visual lesson of some of the treasures that have made their way to us.

