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pipelines

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Irvine Ranch
WATER DISTRICT

Save the Date

The Home Depot Garden Friendly Event

Saturday, March 4
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

The Home Depot
Store #6688

20021 Lake Forest Drive
Lake Forest

This event features discounts on drought-friendly plants, vendor displays and children's activities.

Spring into Gardening Workshop

Wednesday, March 1
6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

IRWD
Multi-Purpose Room
15600 Sand Canyon Avenue
Irvine

Learn how to create and maintain a beautiful, drought-friendly garden.

Sign-ups required:
rightscapenow.com/events

When It Rains...It Stores

Use Rain Barrels and Permeable Hardscape Surfaces to Harvest Storm Water

For every inch of rain that falls on a catchment area of 1,000 square feet, you can expect to collect about 600 gallons of water. To collect water from your roof each time it rains, position rain barrels underneath your downspouts, then use this water to irrigate plants in your yard. Water collected from rain events is good for your plants and keeps money in your pocket by reducing the amount of water you'll need to purchase for irrigation.

IRWD provides rebates of \$75 per rain barrel (limit of two), and \$250 to \$350 per cistern (based on the storage capacity of the cistern). Visit RightScapeNow.com/rebates for full details.

In addition to using rain barrels, another effective way to reduce the amount of water that runs off your property is the use of permeable surfaces. If you have impermeable paving that you'd like to make permeable, there are two main methods for doing so:

- Break up hard-paved surfaces to create spaces for water to seep through.
- Remove and replace hard-paved surfaces with permeable ones.



Walkways that use materials such as gravel or bark are permeable. Stepping stones can be surrounded by permeable fillers like gravel, mulch, or even plant material, like in the driveway on the right. Permeable pavers can also be purchased at any building supply outlet.

Either method allows water to soak into the soil, reducing runoff and contributing to groundwater recharge. Contouring your landscape to hold water back in select areas also enables water to percolate through the soil. Or you can construct a bioswale on your landscape, which is a low-lying area covered with gravel and river rock. The bioswale collects rain and irrigation water and allows it to seep into the soil instead of running off.



This rain barrel is capturing water from a downspout. The circular screen prevents mosquitos from breeding in the collected water.



Q: Juan, Do you have any tips for applying the water from my rain barrels to my landscape?

A: Remember to lead each rain barrel's overflow hose away from your home's foundation and into an existing garden or bioswale, where the water can easily percolate into the soil. It's also best to use rainwater on inedible plants such as turfgrass, shrubs

and flowers. Rainwater from a rain barrel can be used on vegetable gardens, but to ensure safety, make sure to apply this water near the base of the plants and avoid the fruit and foliage, especially on edible leafy greens.

Fix a Leak Contest Is Back: Win \$100!

In honor of Fix a Leak Week, March 20–26, IRWD is again hosting a contest for IRWD customers to win one of five \$100 gift cards—just for checking for leaks. To enter, use this checklist (pictured right). More ways to check for leaks are listed at irwd.com/fixaleak.

Next, submit a photo of yourself checking for leaks through March 31 at irwd.com/fixaleak.

For each photo submitted, participants will receive an entry to win a \$100 gift card at The Home Depot. Fix a Leak Week is sponsored in conjunction with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency WaterSense® Program. For full contest details visit irwd.com/fixaleak.

■ **Check for common bathroom leaks** like continually running toilets or dripping showerheads and fix them.



■ **Check for broken sprinklers or overspray.** Fix or adjust your sprinkler heads if you find these problems.



■ **Check your sprinkler controller** to ensure it remains off during periods of rain, and adjusted for seasonal low-water use.



Love Your Water? Come Learn How It Works!

While you watch water swirling down the drain, do you sometimes wonder where it goes? Are you curious about your drinking water—where it comes from and if it's safe? Answers to those questions and more are available on our Water Awareness Tours!

Dates for the spring resident tours are:

- **Friday, April 28**
- **Saturday, April 29**
- **Saturday, May 6**

Tours include walking tours of the Michelson Water Recycling Plant and San Joaquin Marsh, a laboratory demonstration and a discussion about efficient water use. Sign up at irwd.com/learning/request-a-resident-tour.



Every resident tour includes a guided visit to the IRWD San Joaquin Marsh & Wildlife Sanctuary, a hidden gem located in the heart of Orange County.

Save the Date

Sprinkler Repair & Drip Conversion Workshop

Thursday, March 23
6 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

IRWD
Multi-Purpose Room
15600 Sand Canyon Ave.
Irvine

Learn how to save money and water by repairing and maintaining an efficient irrigation system. Solutions to common problems like leaky seals, broken lines and uneven sprinkler coverage will be discussed. Find out the easy way to update from sprinklers to drip irrigation.



Sign-ups required:
[rightscapenow.com/
events](http://rightscapenow.com/events)

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