

July 2022 Utilities and Community Announcements

California's severe drought continues, and local and state water restrictions are in effect. Know your watering days! Limit irrigation of ornamental landscapes and lawns to two days a week (before 10am or after 6pm) Mondays & Thursdays for odd numbered and numberless addresses, and Tuesdays & Fridays for even numbered addresses (except to ensure the health of trees and other perennial non-turf plantings. Visit cityofpaloalto.org/water for more information.

Looking for ways to conserve water at home? Some easy ways to save water indoors include turning off water while brushing teeth, checking for water leaks, installing efficient showerheads and aerators and only running full loads of laundry or dishes. You can also use a shower timer to help reduce shower length and use a bucket to catch water from your shower or bath before it warms. You can then use the water in the bucket for your trees and garden or to flush your toilets. Valley Water offers free water-savings devices that help conserve water in the shower, faucets and toilets. Visit watersavings.org to request these great tools - which are shipped directly to your home free of charge - or to learn more about the ways you can reduce water use indoors.

Need to drain your pool, spa or fountain? Discharge to your sanitary sewer cleanout instead. Learn how at cleanbay.org. Draining water from any of these sources to storm drain systems can pollute creeks with copper, chlorine, sediments and other contaminants.

Composting is good for the environment and is now the law. A new legal requirement that took effect on January 1, 2022, aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by requiring residents and businesses to separate organic waste. Materials such as food, yard trimmings, and paper products must be removed from garbage containers because they release methane gas when it breaks down in landfills. Learn more at cityofpaloalto.org/SB1383regulations

Hold on to those balloons! Did you know that metallic foil, or Mylar, balloons are a major cause of power outages? Mylar balloons can explode and catch fire when coming in contact with power lines, creating a dangerous situation. Visit cityofpaloalto.org/safeutility for tips on balloon safety. In the event of a power outage, check cityofpaloalto.org/outageinfo for immediate updates.