Get Prepared for Fall
October 2020
Today’s Agenda

Introductions

Getting your home and family ready for Fall
  Planning for seasonal changes
Safety
Maintenance
  Around the home
  Major appliances
Preparedness

Valley Water - Palo Alto’s regional water partner
  Water Wise Survey Program
    Water Wise Outdoor Survey
    Do-it-Yourself Indoor Survey Kit
What does Fall mean to you?

- I have cold rooms
- My heating bill goes way up...
- My child’s asthma gets worse
- I have water condensation on windows
- I can smell smoke from outside
- It’s damp and moldy
- I want a comfortable home!
Comfort and Heating Bill

- Pandemic – first winter at home
  - Bill review – how was your bill last winter
  - Plan for higher usage – especially heating
- Comfort issues last winter
  - Hot, cold room – uneven heating
  - Dry air
- Talk with advisor on strategies
General Safety

• Smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms
  • Change battery at least once a year –
    • Sealed battery newer model
    • Direct powered, back up battery
  • Check age of alarm – when manufactured
    • Replace if past warranty
General Maintenance - Inside

- Attic inspection
  - Review findings with Genie program (free third-party advice)

- Signs of moisture stains or water damage
  - Take a picture for reference
  - Ceiling
  - Attic
  - Basement
  - Crawlspace
  - Window
• Wet windows?
  • Mold, mildew

• Cold around windows
  • Thermal curtains
  • Interior storm windows
  • Temporary window film

• Integrity of the window
  • Worn seals or cold air drafting down window?
  • Seek advice from Genie advisor
General Maintenance - Outside

• Rain gutter and downspouts inspection
  • Where does the water drain
• Check crawlspace and attic vent screen
• Termite activity - high and low areas
  • Droppings (drywood)
  • Swarming Aug – Nov (drywood)
  • Mud tunnels (subterranean)
  • Soft spots on wood – door frame, deck
• Any overhanging branches from trees
• Peeling paint
Chimney

- Woodburning
  - Clean creosote
  - Safety inspection
- Damper operational
  - Make sure closed
- No damper?
  - Chimney pillow
Furnace

- Filter change
- Test system
  - Clear out dust in system
  - Does it work?
- Thermostat
  - Adjust schedule for staying at home
  - Adjust temp to save on heating cost
- Safety inspection
  - Heating contractor not busy in early fall
Water Heater

• Check water heater tank
  • Any rust?
  • Look at nameplate
    • Note age of water heater
    • Last 10-15 years

• Flush tank or descale tankless

• Time replace?
  • Ready to electrify your home?
  • Heat Pump Water Heater Rebate up to $1,500
  • Talk with advisor
Disaster Preparedness

• Do you have a plan and kit - earthquake, fire, flood?
  • Water!

• Public Safety Power Shutdown (PSPS) event
  • Flashlight
  • Back up power for essentials
    • Phone (land and cell)
    • Internet
  • Have a plan
    • Food spoilage
    • Cooking
    • Comfort

• https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/services/public_safety/emergency_preparedness/be_prepéaréd_individuals_and_families.asp
Disaster Preparedness

- Wildfires
  - Being prepared for poor outdoor air quality
  - Smoke smells indoors?
    - Air sealing your home can help improve IAQ
    - Air purifier – design for long term use
    - Check with heating contractor if your central system can support higher MERV filters
  - Look at CPAU Utilities Newsletter - “Improving Indoor Air Quality”
    https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/gov/depts/utl/services/utilities_newsletters.asp
Valley Water

Palo Alto’s Regional Water Partner
Hello!

Emily Yarsinske
Water Conservation Specialist I
Valley Water

Water Wise Survey Program
• Water Wise Outdoor Survey
• Do-it-Yourself Indoor Survey Kit
Valley Water provides Santa Clara County:

- Clean, reliable water
- Flood protection
- Healthy creeks, ecosystems

WaterSavings.org

Water Conservation Programs
Water Use in Our County:

- Residential: 55%
- Business: 31%
- Agriculture: 8%
- Dedicated Landscape: 6%
- Meters: 8%

Indoor Use: Where does it go?

- Toilet: 24%
- Shower: 20%
- Clothes Washer: 17%
- Faucet: 19%
- Leak: 12%
- Other: 8%

½ Outdoor
½ Indoor
The Importance of Water Conservation

Conservation saves you money and saves resources for all!

Water Conservation:
• Ensures a reliable water supply
• Reduces the amount of water imported from the Sacramento Delta
• Saves energy
• Reduces pollution from water runoff
California Drought

Map released: Thurs. October 1, 2020
Data valid: September 29, 2020 at 8 a.m. EDT

Intensity:
- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx

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droughtmonitor.unl.edu
Water Wise Outdoor Survey Program
Water Wise Outdoor Survey Program (WWOS)

The WWOS Program provides a free service to help customers understand their outdoor water use. A trained irrigation professional will assess the landscape and evaluate the efficiency of the irrigation system.

Eligibility:

- Single-family & multi-family sites under 1/2-acre in property size
  - Large Landscape Survey
- Must have at least (1) valve-operated irrigation zone
- San Jose Water Company customers – Request a Water Audit
  - Call (408) 279-7900 or go to sjwater.com/catch
WWOS – What to Expect

During a WWOS, the surveyor will:

• Review the irrigation system
  • Note and flag problems that can be addressed or improved
• Make recommendations for repairs, replacements, and upgrades
• Follow-up with a detailed written report

• May pre-inspect the site for the Landscape Rebate Program
• Provide information on applicable Valley Water rebates
• Provide a personalized irrigation schedule
Should I get a WWOS?

Do you experience any of the following below? If so, you may wish to participate in our WWOS program!

- Abnormal or unusually high water bill
- Visible landscape issues
- Want to learn more about irrigation system
- See if you qualify for irrigation upgrade rebates
WWOS - How to Get Started

Call - (408) 630-2000 // Email - WaterWise@valleywater.org // Website - watersavings.org

Fill out an online survey request form

Water Wise Survey Request Form

Services Requested *

Eligibility Questions

Which of the following does your irrigation system include? *

Select

Water Company *

Select your water company // Find my water retailer

Water Account Number or Well ID (Required to determine eligibility) *

A copy of your water bill will be requested when scheduling your outdoor survey.

Primary Contact Information

Name (Primary Account Holder, if applicable) *

Address *

City *

Select your city

State: CA

Water Wise Survey Program

Valley Water offers a two part program to help you learn how to use less water in your landscape and home. This includes:

1. Water Wise Outdoor Surveys, where we send a trained irrigation professional to evaluate your landscape's irrigation system, and
2. Do-it-yourself Water Wise Indoor Survey kits, where you learn how to independently check your home for leaks and efficiency improvement opportunities.

Call (408) 630-2000 for outdoor surveys or (408) 630-2554 to request an indoor survey kit.
Do-it-Yourself Indoor Survey Kit
DIY Indoor Survey Kit

The DIY Kit is a free resource that helps customers learn about their indoor water use. The DIY booklet can be accessed online, and the complete DIY Kit can be mailed to customers.

Eligibility: Anyone!
What’s in the DIY Indoor Survey Kit?

The DIY Kit comes with a how-to booklet, a flow rate bag, and toilet dye tablets. The kit shows you how to:

- Identify the flow rate of faucets and showerheads
- Perform a water meter leak test
- Perform a toilet leak test
- Learn about general indoor leak information
DIY Leak Check Videos

Check out our helpful leak check videos at watersavings.org!
Free Water-Wise Gear

Complete the Home Survey Worksheet to receive free water efficient gear

Based on your own Survey findings, you may receive free:

• Bathroom /Kitchen faucet aerator
• Low-flow showerhead
• Toilet flapper

Valleywater.org/DIYSurvey
DIY Indoor Survey Kit – How to Get Started

Call - (408) 630-2554 // Email - Conservation@valleywater.org // Website - watersavings.org

View the DIY guide online today!

How To Get an Indoor Survey Kit?

The DIY Water Wise Indoor Survey Kit includes a step-by-step guide to perform your own indoor survey. A worksheet to request free water conservation items, toilet dye tablets, and a simple device to help you measure the flow rates of your sinks and showers.

To begin saving water indoors using the Indoor Survey Kit, you have 2 options. Please either:

1. Use the kit’s online step-by-step guide for immediate help. This does not include the toilet dye tablets or the device to measure flow rates. Or,
2. To get dye tablets and a simple flow-rate device along with a physical copy of the step-by-step guide, call our Water Conservation Hotline at (408) 630-2554 or fill out this request.

You will not receive free water conservation gear until you complete either of the 2 options described immediately below.
Other Water-Wise Resources

- Landscape Rebate Program
- Graywater Laundry to Landscape Rebate
  - Presentation on October 22!
- Additional irrigation information
- Literature and rack cards

valleywater.org/saving-water/resources-gear
Thank You!

Emily Yarsinske
Water Conservation Specialist I
Valley Water

Contact
Water Wise Outdoor Surveys
• Phone: (408) 630-2000
• Email: WaterWise@valleywater.org

Do-it-Yourself Indoor Survey Kit
• Phone: (408) 630-2554
• Email: Conservation@valleywater.org
valleywater.org/saving-water/residential/water-wise-surveys
Summary

• This is only a reminder list
  • Plan for higher heating cost
  • Safety
  • Walk around your house
  • Check your equipment
  • Preparedness

• Water Wise Survey Program
  • Water Wise Outdoor Survey
  • Do-it-Yourself Indoor Survey Kit

• Contact the Home Efficiency Genie advisor with any questions or for advice
Thank you for attending!

• Questions, comments?

• Virtual Assessment coming soon

• Next webinar – Your Heating System

• Home Efficiency Genie free phone advising
  • Website: efficiencygenie.com
  • Phone: 650-713-3411
  • Email: Advisor@efficiencygenie.com