

Water Saver

Newsletter

Water Resources/Conservation

2009



Chandler • Arizona

Did you know?

All of the following are **FREE** to Chandler Utility Customers:

1. Rebates from \$50 to \$600 on low water use landscape, irrigation timers and clothes washers.
2. Workshops held every spring and fall to help you plan and maintain a waterwise landscape.
3. Home water audits. To help if you have a high water bill and are not sure you have a leak.
4. Informational brochures about landscaping and household water-saving tips.
5. School programs and HOA presentations. Staff is available by appointment.
6. Landscaping and watering advice.
7. Retrofit kits (for homes built before 1992) that include water saving devices.

Contact Water Conservation for more information about these FREE services.

480-782-3580

www.chandleraz.gov/water

The Results are In!

Chandler Residents Save Money after Water Audits and Conversions

The City of Chandler has offered FREE home water audits for over a decade. Conducted by trained staff, audits often identify leaks and ways to reduce outdoor water consumption while still maintaining a lush, beautiful landscape. Last year residents saved up to **40 percent** on their water bills after following water conservation advice.

A common cause of increased water consumption is the toilet. Over time, toilet flappers can become warped which allows water to leak from the tank into the bowl. Often silent, they can be responsible for thousands of gallons that are lost down the drain each month.

Other sources of water waste identified during an audit include water softeners, automatic pool fillers, leaks in irrigation lines and irrigation timers that are programmed to overwater.

Converting and replacing unused grass areas with colorful low-water use landscaping is another way to save money and water. Plus, you may be eligible for a rebate of up to \$600!

It's easy.

1. Remove at least 1,000 square feet of turf.
2. Install drought-resistant trees, shrubs, groundcovers, flowering perennials, succulents, etc. A minimum of 50% of the landscapable area must be non-grass with inorganic or organic top dressing.

Questions?

Call our Water Conservation Specialist at 480-782-3583 or visit the Water Conservation web site for details.



Are You Water Wise?

1. To keep Bermuda grass healthy in the summer, how often should it be watered?

- a) every day b) every other day
c) twice a week d) twice a day

2. The amount of water used outside the home in a typical Chandler neighborhood is usually?

- a) 30 percent b) 40 percent
c) 50 percent d) 60 percent

3. How much water evaporates from a swimming pool each year?

- a) 12 inches b) 24 inches
c) 36 inches d) more than 48 inches

4. How much water can be saved by replacing one hibiscus plant with a red bird of paradise?

- a) 20 gallons per year
b) 80 gallons per year
c) 250 gallons per year
d) more than 500 gallons per year

5. What fixture in the home is responsible for the most water use?

- a) water softener b) toilet
c) washing machine d) dishwasher

Do you have a question you would like answered in this article? Contact Cathy Rymer at 480-782-3589 or e-mail Cathy at cathy.rymer@chandleraz.gov

Answers:
1) c 2) d 3) b
4) c 5) b

Free Water

(Courtesy of Mother Nature)

Rainwater Harvesting is the term used to describe how rainwater is collected and channeled to areas that can catch it. But if the rainwater simply runs off of your property and down the street, you're not getting the full benefit of all that 'free' water. Everybody has at least one catchment on their property, such as a roof, patio or driveway. It's easy to catch rainwater - here's how.

- Direct water from roofs or downspouts to landscaped areas.
- Create 'swales' (shallow depressions) in your property where water can collect.

- Direct water runoff from patios or driveways to plants, trees or lawns by using dikes, berms, or contouring.
- Rainwater can also be contained in barrels or tanks where a hose can direct water to the garden or landscape. Be sure to use a solid lid or fine mesh to keep leaf litter and mosquitoes out.

Visit

www.chandleraz.gov/water for more information.

One inch of rain falling on 2,000 square feet of roof produces about 1,200 gallons of water.

Tax Credits Available

A tax credit up to \$1000 for the installation of a "rainwater harvesting" conservation system after January 1, 2007 and before January 1, 2012 is available to Arizona taxpayers. This is a one-time tax credit of 25% of the cost of the system (up to a maximum of \$1,000). Contact the Arizona Department of Revenue.



"Through some bizarre irony, rainwater in the arid west is typically deflected away from water-starved land and shunted off to storm drains."

Ann Audrey Phillips, Manager of Restoration Projects, Tucson Audubon Society

Let Your Fingers Do The Surfing

All you ever wanted to know about conserving water in your home and landscape is just a mouse click away on the Chandler Water Conservation Web site.

Rebates

There are a number of ways to put cash in your pocket.

Leak Detection

Find tips on how to find and repair leaks.

Classes and Workshops

See spring & fall schedule on back for details.

Plant Choices

There are hundreds of beautiful water-conserving plants to include in your landscape. Dozens of pictures and details can be found here.

Watering your Landscape

Most landscapes are overwatered. You may be able to reduce the amount you apply, save money on your water bill, and still have a lush-looking landscape.

Free Brochures and Information

A wide variety are available on home water management and landscaping.



www.chandleraz.gov/water

How Low Can You Go?

Up to 70 percent of a typical Chandler home's water use is applied outdoors!

Because most landscapes are overwatered, residents can usually reduce outdoor water use by 50 percent and still have a beautiful, lush landscape. More plants die from overwatering than from underwatering.

The key to success is to water deeply. Trees should be watered long enough to wet the top two to three feet of soil. For shrubs, wet the soil down 18 inches or so. For shallow-rooted turf, groundcovers, flowers and vegetables one foot deep wetting is sufficient. The recommended run time for drip systems is a minimum of 2 hours. Water early in the morning or after sunset to reduce evaporation.

To determine moisture depth after watering, push a probe (metal rod) down into the soil. The probe will push easily through wet soil but will stop when it hits dry soil. If water isn't getting down deep enough, increase the length of time you're watering.

Save 30 to 50 percent on your water bill by adjusting your irrigation each season. "Landscape Watering by the Numbers: A Guide for the Arizona Desert" will help you determine how much water to apply and how long to run your system. Request a free copy of the booklet on line at chandleraz.gov/water or by calling 480-782-3580.

You may even want to try new weather-based irrigation controllers that make adjustments for you.



Environmental Art Contest

Call now to get your FREE calendar and poster! (while supplies last)



Andy Zhou, 4th Grade
Kyrene del Sureno, 1st Cont

Drawing by Andy Zhou
Kyrene del Sureno Elementary

2008 marked the fifth annual Environmental Art Contest for Chandler fourth-grade students. The contest is sponsored by Chandler's Water Conservation, Storm Water, and Recycling programs. Students were asked to illustrate how they were water wise, prevented pollution, or remembered to recycle. More than 1,100 students participated and the winners were honored by Mayor Boyd W. Dunn at an award ceremony in the City Council Chambers. The 19 colorful drawings were used to make a 2009 desktop calendar and educational poster. Visit any one of Chandler's libraries or call the Water Conservation office at 480-782-3580 to receive your free copy. If you would like to see all winning entries, please log on to our Web site at www.chandleraz.gov/water.

Winning entries for the 2009 Environmental Art Contest have been announced! For more information about the City's Recycling program, call 480-782-3510, and for information about the Storm Water Program call 480-782-3503.



Chandler • Arizona
Where Values Make The Difference



POSTAL CUSTOMER
Chandler, AZ

Landscape Workshop Schedule

Workshops are offered free of charge to Chandler utility customers through the City of Chandler Water Conservation office. Class space is limited so please call ahead to reserve your spot. Workshops are offered in the spring and fall each year. For more information, visit our Web site:

www.chandleraz.gov/water

All Water Conservation workshops are held at the Chandler Senior Center
202 E. Boston Street
Chandler, AZ

Classes are FREE
but you must register.
Call 480-782-3580



Printed on recycled content paper

Southwest Landscaping 1-3

This three-class series will teach you the basics about landscaping in our desert. You will learn the concepts of design, how to plan for small spaces, the desert plant palette, plant selection, plant combinations and how to have color year round. Classes run Tuesday evenings 9/8, 9/15, 9/22 and, 10/6, 10/13, 10/20 from 6:30-8:45 p.m. Instructor: Ronald Dinchak.

Pruning and Maintaining Your Landscape

Trees and shrubs are the most important living elements in your landscape. Learn about proper selection, planting and pruning. Class will be held 11/17 from 6:30 - 8:45 p.m. Instructor: Cathy Rymer.

Irrigation Workshops 1-3

This three-part series walks you through the components of an irrigation system, how to design and install a system, how to program an irrigation timer, and how to troubleshoot when problems arise. Don't let your irrigation controller control you! Drip Irrigation System Installation will be held 10/27, Yard Watering on 11/3, and Irrigation System Maintenance on 11/10. Classes run from 6:00-8:45 p.m. Instructor: Jeff Lee.

Basic Yard Makeovers

If you've been considering converting your grass into a colorful low-water-use landscape, this class will show you the easy step-by-step methods. You may even be eligible for a rebate of up to \$600! Class will be held 9/1 from 6:30-8:45 p.m. Instructor: Cathy Rymer.

Water-Wise Vegetable Gardening

Learn how to prepare beds and select vegetables & herbs for a bountiful harvest. Class is on 9/29 from 6:30 - 8:45 p.m. Instructor: Cathy Rymer

