

Water Saver

Water Resources and Conservation

2010

Newsletter



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

Go Green - Save Blue!

Chandler Residents Save Money after Water Audits

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.

Saving water is easy. Here are a few tips.

Tip #28

Fix a leaking toilet flapper and save up to 1,000 gallons per month.

Tip #42

Use a water-efficient showerhead and save up to 750 gallons a month.

Tip #5.

Wash clothes only when you have a full load and save up to 1,000 gallons each month.

Tip #23

Spend five minutes or less in the shower and save up to 1,000 gallons per family per month.

Call our Water Conservation Specialist to schedule a free audit at 480-782-3583. See more tips at wateruseitwisely.com/arizona.

www.chandleraz.gov/water

Where Does All That Water Go?

Q. How can I tell if my toilet is leaking?

A. Toilets are easily the biggest water waster inside the home and can waste thousands of gallons per month. To test your toilet for leaks, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait 15 minutes. If you see color in the bowl, you have a leak and may need to replace the flapper, which is easy and low-cost. Toilets should be checked every year because leaks can be silent and you may not notice them. The Water Conservation office has a video on-line that will show you how to check for leaks. We also offer free leak detection tablets and a brochure called *Home Toilet Leak Detection*. Call for your copy.

Q. Is my showerhead low flow? How can I tell?

A. Check the side of your showerhead where the gallons per minute should be printed. A low-flow shower head will emit around 2.5 gallons per minute. If your home was built before 1992 and the fixtures (shower head, toilets, faucet aerators) have never been replaced, you may be able to save hundreds of gallons of water a month by installing a free plumbing retrofit kit. These kits contain a low flow shower head, faucet aerators, and a toilet tank displacement bag.

Call the Water Conservation office at 480-782-3580 or visit www.chandleraz.gov/water

Environmental Art Contest

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



Drawing by Rhett Eubanks-Garcia
St. Mary-Basha Elementary

2009 marked the sixth 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 950 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 2010 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 website at www.chandleraz.gov/water.

Winning entries for the 2010 Environmental Art Contest will be announced in April! 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.



Get Your Green (and earn up to \$600)

Would you like an extra \$600 in your pocket? Are you interested in converting your grass yard into a colorful, fragrant, interesting living space? You can save hundreds of dollars on landscape maintenance costs as well as money on your water bill. Turning your grass into cash is as easy as following these simple steps:

After



Step 1

Meet the Requirements

- Single family home and a minimum of 1,000 square feet of grass must be removed.
- After removal of the grass, more than half your landscape will be low water use plants with crushed granite or organic top dressing.

Step 2

Conduct the Conversion

- Take a before and after picture of the landscape.
- If you have questions about grass removal or low water use plants, contact our office or attend one of our free workshops (see back page).

Step 3

Contact our Office

- Call our Water Conservation Specialist 480-782-3583 and set up an appointment.
- Fill out the appropriate paperwork and within a month, you may have up to \$600 in your pocket!

Green On!

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Before



The Schauers decided to tackle the conversion of their 1/5 of an acre lot completely by themselves. They started with the back yard, and were able to complete it in four weekends. Their new desert yard (pictured above) boasts mesquite shade trees, a natural desert wash, mounds that help collect rainwater and a flagstone patio.

People all over Chandler are thinking about being more “green” these days. Even the smallest efforts can make a big difference.

Want to create your own backyard oasis? Or maybe you’d like to make your landscape more child or pet friendly. We can help.

Visit

www.chandleraz.gov/water
for more information.

Catch the... Conservation Wave

The average Valley resident uses about 136 gallons of water every day!

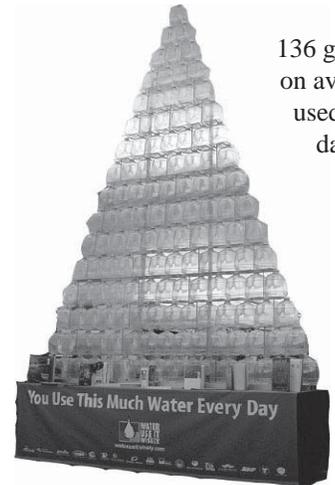
Here’s how it breaks down:

- Drinking, cooking - 6 gallons
- Showers/baths - 16 gallons
- Toilets - 18 gallons
- Household cleaning - 22 gallons (clothes washers, dishwasher, faucets, etc.)
- Outdoors - 74 gallons. (landscaping, pools, leaks, etc.)

Does Your Water Use Stack Up?

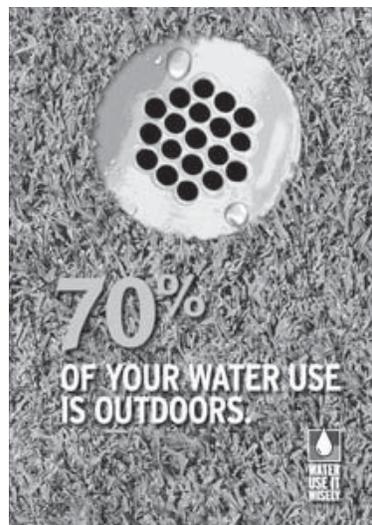
Here’s how to tell:

$$\text{Gallons used per month} \div \text{No. People in Household} \div \text{Days in Month} = \text{Gallons per person per day}$$



136 gallons on average used per day.

See the Water Tower at the Environmental Education Center in April



The Biggest Drain In Your Home Isn't IN Your Home

Most landscapes are overwatered, but 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.

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 without lifting a finger.





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

Water-Wise Vegetable Gardening

New Location

Get your garden growing in our unique desert environment. Learn how to prepare beds & select vegetables/herbs/fruits for a bountiful harvest. Class is on 2/10 from 6:30 - 8:45 p.m.

Instructor: Cathy Rymer

your grass into a colorful, fragrant, interesting, living space, 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 4/6 from 6:30-8:45 p.m.

Instructor: Cathy Rymer

Pruning & Maintaining Your Landscape

New Location

Trees and shrubs are the most important living elements in your landscape. Learn the art and science of good pruning. Class will be held 2/16 from 6:30 - 8:45 p.m.

Instructor: Cathy Rymer

WaterSmart 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. Drip Irrigation System Installation will be held 4/13, Yard Watering on 4/20, and Irrigation System Maintenance on 4/27.

Classes run from 6:00-8:45 p.m.

Instructor: Jeff Lee

ChandlerSmart Landscaping

This three-class series will teach you the basics about landscaping in the Southwest. You'll learn the concepts of design, how to plan for small spaces, the wide array of desert-adapted plants available, plant selection and plant combinations. Classes run Tuesday evenings 2/23, 3/2, 3/9 and 3/16, 3/23, 3/30 from 6:30-8:45 p.m.

Instructor: Ronald Dinchak

Basic Yard Makeovers

Want to create your own backyard oasis? If you've been considering converting



Water Conservation workshops are held at the Chandler Senior Center 202 E. Boston Street Chandler, AZ except where noted. *(call for address)*

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



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