

## **INNOVATIVE SEWER ALARM PREVENTS SEWER SPILLS BEFORE THEY HAPPEN**

Nobody likes to think about something as unpleasant as a sewer spill. But the reality is: some 40,000 spills occur nationwide according to estimates by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

To combat them, Rainbow has been using innovative, specialized manhole covers that detect sewer spills before they happen. They also alert the district when a manhole cover is removed without authorization.

The SmartCover technology seems basic enough: the SmartCover has electronics attached to its underside and replaces the normal manhole cover. When sewage levels rise beyond normal levels, or if the manhole cover is opened when it shouldn't be, alarms are generated and sent to Rainbow personnel's cell phones or pagers, typically within 30 seconds. Employees respond quickly enough to avert a spill or illegal dumping.

### **FREEBIE**

WaterSmart Checkups: Owners or managers of commercial, multifamily, industrial, public or single-family properties can apply for a free WaterSmart Checkup. It provides site-specific, no obligation landscape water-saving recommendations from a certified irrigation professional. No one is going to try to sell you anything. This is a completely free service to you! For more information log onto [watersmartcheckup.org](http://watersmartcheckup.org).

## **SIX WAY TO CUT WATER LOSS FROM SWIMMING POOLS**

As summer peaks across California, many residents are escaping from the heat in their swimming pools. More than 2 million residential pools dot the state – about a quarter of the national total – and they get a lot of use in July and August.



WaterSmart Pools - To make the most of the water used by your pool, take steps to reduce evaporation.

While pools can be great aquatic playgrounds, they also can drain a lot of water if owners aren't careful. More than 200 million gallons a day statewide are used in swimming pools – mostly to make up for evaporation, according to one recent study.

Each situation is different, but the [California Urban Water Conservation Council](#) offers several strategies to consider:

- Use a pool cover. A recent report found that pool covers can slow evaporation enough to reduce water loss by nearly 30 percent.
- Repair leaks. A small leak in pool equipment or the pool itself results in substantial water loss. For example, a leak that lowers the water level by one inch a day in a 15-by-30-foot pool can waste approximately 102,000 gallons per year.
- Reduce pool and spa water temperature. Cooler water evaporates more slowly.
- Shut down unnecessary fountains and waterfalls. Aeration increases evaporation.
- Manually clean pool filters. The average backwash uses between 250 and 1,000 gallons of water.
- Maintain proper chemical levels and adequate circulation time. Not only will pool water be safer and cleaner, but you'll avoid the need to drain the pool or use additional water to correct conditions of neglect.

*(Source: San Diego County Water Authority)*

**RAINBOW  
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**HIGH PRESSURE AREAS**

Due to the hilly topography of the District, many portions of our service area are subject to high water pressure. So what can consumers do to protect their water system?

The California Plumbing Code requires pressure regulators on water supply inlets to homes and buildings wherever local static water pressure is in excess of eighty (80) pounds per square inch. Your house may already have a pressure regulator to protect against high pressure, but they are usually located where your pipe enters the building.

What about the water line from the meter to your home? Usually the line from the meter to the house remains unprotected. Some areas have District-installed and owned pressure regulators that are in front of the meter. ***Those devices are only installed to protect the District's meter from high pressure, not your water line.*** If you want to protect your line from high pressure coming into your property we highly recommend that you install a pressure regulator right after the meter.

Please contact Customer Service at 728-1178 regarding any questions related to high pressure.

**The New WaterSmart Conservation Website is Here!**



Welcome to WaterSmartsd.org, a new one-stop shop designed to inspire water-efficient lifestyles and empower the region's residents to make WaterSmart choices wherever they live, work or go to school.

This site is an online guide for all things related to water conservation in the San Diego region. It is organized to provide content relevant to homeowners, homeowner associations, businesses (including agricultural operations), public institutions and the educational sector.

The site features tips, a photo gallery highlighting successful water-smart landscaping projects, answers to frequently asked questions, details about financial incentives for water-saving upgrades and loads of other helpful resources. It also includes case studies that highlight ways people in San Diego County are making the most of the region's most precious natural resource.

WaterSmartsd.org will be updated regularly with timely information, and it will be expanded in coming weeks with new inspirational case studies and even more extensive offerings. Website users can subscribe to Water Authority newsletters and sign up for email notifications when new content is added.

Tell us what you think by sending an email with questions, comments or suggestions to [watersmartsd@sdcwa.org](mailto:watersmartsd@sdcwa.org).

*(Source: San Diego County Water Authority)*