RAINBOW
MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER
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Don't get stuck in the FOG this Holiday Season



The holiday season is here, turning the kitchen into the heart of your home—don't let festive cooking turn into a plumbing nightmare. Fats, oils, and grease (FOGs) account for the largest source of clogs in residential, commercial, and the District's sewer system. When systems are clogged, the District's wastewater lift stations become overworked, disrupting the flow of sewage to the wastewater treatment plant in Oceanside. As a result, crew members must manually remove the debris from the lift stations and sewer lines. Preventing holiday plumbing clogs is messy work, and you can keep your drains clear by being mindful of what you pour down the drain.

How To Prevent Clogs

To prevent severe plumbing damage, avoid disposing of thick oils and animal fats in any drain, sink, garbage disposal, or toilet. Follow these helpful tips for proper household disposal of FOGs and more:

- Avoid tossing FOGs outside or pouring high-heat liquids down the drain, as this can damage plumbing systems and the District's sewer system.
- Let liquids and oil cool, then place them in a glass jar or container for reuse in cooking.
- Scrape plates and greasy pans with paper towels, place in a can or lined container, then seal and dispose.
- Trash FOGs by mixing with solid waste such as flour, cat litter, sawdust, or sand. After mixing it into a solid, throw it away in a bag with household trash.
- Avoid using the garbage disposal to grind fat trimmings, fruit or vegetable peels; instead, wrap them up and place in the trash.
- Consider starting a compost bin or using the organics bin to dispose of vegetable and fruit trimmings.
- Remember to avoid using the sink as a trash can; when in doubt, throw it in the trash.

Learn more about FOGS and proper disposal at:
rainbowmwd.ca.gov/proper-grease-disposal-practices

Around the District

Highlights from the General Manager

Prepare for El Niño with Sandbags from the County of San Diego



Rainbow Water has partnered with the County of San Diego and the North County Fire Protection District to open a new location for residents to obtain free sandbags in preparation for the upcoming rainy season.

Horse Creek Ridge Staging Area

Location: Corner of Pankey Road and CA-76 Located Across from 5090 CA-76, Fallbrook, CA 92028
Availability: For Rainbow Water and North County Fire Protection District residents
Tips: Bring gloves and a shovel

- Sandbag site is supplied by the County of San Diego Emergency Services
- Sandbags are do-it-yourself fill
- Staff is not available at the site
- The site is scheduled to open 48 hours before expected rains

Directions & Info

For more information and directions to the Horse Creek Ridge sandbag site visit:
rainbowmwd.ca.gov/sandbags

SCAN FOR DIRECTIONS

Know Before You Go. Watch a Video to Become a Sandbag Filling Pro.
Before you head to Horse Creek Ridge to pick up your sandbags, watch the helpful how-to fill a sandbag video from the County of San Diego. Get tips on how to fill, leave room to tie, and stack the sandbags. Watch the YouTube video to learn more: tinyurl.com/2jpu4yya



Seasonal Storm Preparation

Improve Outdoor Water Use and Drainage



As the El Niño weather pattern approaches, Rainbow Water is taking proactive steps to safeguard the community through emergency preparedness and inter-agency coordination. Customers are encouraged to help prevent flooding and improve outdoor water use by making small, impactful adjustments to reduce water waste and prepare homes for future rain events.

Storm Preparation Checklist

- Clear out downspouts and rain gutters to increase rain flow away from the home.
- Avoid using water to spray down driveways or sidewalks; instead, sweep with a broom or a leaf blower.
- Clean up pet waste promptly, place in a bag, and dispose in the trash to prevent harmful waste from entering storm drains and creeks.
- Secure furniture and large items in the yard.
- Install a dry bed to capture rainwater runoff in your yard.
- Remove debris or items blocking yard drainage systems.
- Reduce runoff by checking and replacing broken sprinklers.
- Avoid applying fertilizer before an expected rain event.
- Add mulch or ground cover to slopes to avoid erosion.
- Place mulch in a donut shape around trees and large bushes.
- Adjust the irrigation system schedule to run late evening or early morning to reduce evaporation.
- Turn off the irrigation system prior to a rain event and resume the regular irrigation schedule 48 hours after the rain stops.
- Install a Flume, a smart water device (only $75 after rebate) to monitor water use and receive leak alerts.
- Prepare your landscape with free sandbags available at Horse Creek Staging Area in Fallbrook.

Read more about outdoor water use efficiency and rebates available on the Rainbow Water website: **rainbowmwd.ca.gov/Outdoor-Water-Use**

Tis the Season for Giving

Annual Toy Drive for Our Local Boys & Girls Clubs of North County



Rainbow Water is proud to partner for the second year with the Boys and Girls Clubs of North County for their Annual Holiday Toy Drive. Drop off new unwrapped gifts for children ages 7–17 at Rainbow Water Headquarters and help make the holidays brighter for local youth. Gifts and gift card donations will be accepted until Tuesday, December 8.

SCAN FOR MORE INFO

For more information and to donate directly to the Boys and Girls Clubs of North County please visit: **rainbowmwd.ca.gov/bgc-donations**



Plant Before the Rain

Ready Your Garden for Fall

Thinking about replacing your lawn? Fall is the best time to plant California natives, giving them months to establish before summer returns. With El Niño increasing the potential for a wet winter, now is the perfect opportunity to invest in a landscape that's beautiful, supports local wildlife, and uses less water.

The County of San Diego Waterscape Rebate Program's Turf Replacement rebates can help you replace water-intensive turf with beautiful, climate-appropriate landscapes. From California native plants to water-wise design, the program provides rebates, resources, and guidance to help you create a yard that's both beautiful and sustainable.

Get Started

Learn more and apply today on the County of San Diego Waterscape Rebate website: **tinyurl.com/f2t5dfdz**

APPLY FOR REBATES ONLINE

Holiday Office Closures

Rainbow Water Headquarters will be closed in observance of Veterans Day and the Thanksgiving holiday. This Veterans Day, we honor the brave men and women who have served our country and live in our community. Rainbow Water Headquarters' office will be closed on the following dates.



November Office Closures

Weds, Nov 11
Thurs, Nov 25 - Fri, Nov 26

Regular office hours will resume the next business day. Online bill pay and emergency response are available 24/7.

RAINBOW MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT SINCE 1953

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