

City of
Huntington Beach
Public Works,
Utilities Division
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Water and Huntington Beach

USE WATER WISELY

Fall 2012

Did you know that:

- Urban runoff is the biggest non-point source of ocean pollution
- 67 million lbs. of herbicides, pesticides and fertilizers are applied annually to lawns in the US (estimate by EPA)
- Turf grass is California's largest irrigated "crop"
- Running a faucet for five minutes uses as much electricity (for purification, delivery and treatment) as burning a 60 watt light bulb for 14 hours

1 \$ per square foot Turf Removal Program

If you have thought about replacing your turf lawn, or creating a new look for your garden, you might be interested in the \$1 per square foot turf removal program currently offered by the Municipal Water District of Orange County.

Residential and commercial customers in Huntington Beach may be eligible for a rebate when removing turf and installing

water wise plants (California friendly, drought tolerant and natives) and landscaping. As funding is limited and available on a "first come, first serve" basis, we encourage our residents and businesses to apply ASAP!

For program specifics and further details please visit;
www.mwdoc.com/Services/turf-removal

The Water Wise Garden Sign

The water wise garden sign is a fun and innovative program designed to recognize residents that have converted their thirsty turf lawns to sustainable gardens planted with California natives and other drought tolerant plants. The signs will be displayed during the month of September and a list of participating addresses and pictures will be published so residents can see a variety of beautiful and sustainable water wise gardens. For more information, call 714.374.1503 or visit www.surfcity-hb.org/hbwater



The Water Wise Garden Sign is a collaboration with the Huntington Beach Chamber of Commerce and the Green Expo, the Orange County Association of Realtors and the City of Huntington Beach

Remember to adjust your automatic sprinklers to water once or twice a week on shorter cycles, as we enter the fall season. Your garden doesn't need nearly as much water as the days are shorter and cooler. Your plants will be happy & healthy and you will save some money and water!

Become a fan of
Huntington
Beach Water
on Facebook!



The H.B. Rain Water Barrel Program

The Utilities Division is proud to present a Rain Water Barrel program for Huntington Beach residents, institutions and businesses! The 55 gallon barrels can be purchased at the discounted price of \$75.

Each barrel is outfitted with a brass overflow and can be connected with other barrels using a hose, increasing the water storage capacity. The barrels have a 4 inch cap with a tight steel mesh screen to prevent bugs and mosquitoes from accessing the water. The barrels are “food grade” and would end up in landfills if not reused as rain barrels.

Rain barrels are one of the components of Low Impact Development and offer multiple benefits such as diversion of water from municipal storm

drain systems and protecting the ocean from storm runoff pollution. Rain barrels also help to conserve water by reducing the demands on our potable water supply. The “soft” rain water collected is ideal for plants and vegetable gardens. Many may question the use of rain barrels in our semi-arid climate, but for every inch of rain falling on a one thousand square foot roof, 600 gallons of water can be collected.

For more information on barrel specifications please visit www.surfcity-hb.org/hbwater or call 714.374.1796. To reserve; www.rainbarrelsintl.com/events.

Rain barrels will be available for pickup on Saturday, September 24, from 10 am to 12 noon at the Huntington Beach Utilities Yard, 19001 Huntington Street.

Remember to only irrigate with automatic sprinkler systems after 5 pm & before 9 am. The most ideal time to irrigate your plants is early morning.

The Water Use Efficiency program offers free indoor and outdoor water surveys to all residents and businesses. For more info, call 714.374.1796

Ocean Friendly Gardens™ and Surf

An Ocean Friendly Garden is a sustainable and ecologically appropriate garden, striving to prevent any water from leaving the property. Dry weather runoff is the biggest non-point source ocean polluter! Runoff is responsible for 80% of the total volume of ocean pollution as it not only carries pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers from yards, it also picks up oil, grease, animal waste and trash along streets and storm drains on its way to the ocean. Surfriider Foundation came up with the acronym “CPR” to de-

Conservation - As rain and water is retained in a garden with water wise plants, less water needs to be added. Conservation also applies to using less or no fertilizers and synthetic chemicals, compounds which greatly damages the ocean ecosystem.

Permeability - means the ability of landscapes to hold and allow water to permeate down into the ground. Permeable surfaces prevents runoff.

Retention - speaks of water being retained on the property instead of flowing down the gutter.