

JOSHUA BASIN WATER DISTRICT

WATERLINE REPORT

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The Board of Directors meets regularly on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month at 7 p.m. at the District Office.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Easy and Inexpensive: New Fixtures Save Water - and \$\$\$

Did you know... showering is one of the leading water uses in the home, about 17% of indoor water use. When the Energy Policy Act of 1992 set a federal standard of 2-1/2 gallons per minute (gpm) for showerheads, the new “low-flow” showerheads were hard for many people to get used to. The spray power wasn’t great, and many people took longer showers, defeating the purpose of conservation.

Today’s high-efficiency models are greatly improved. The spray power is stronger, and there are options like adjustable settings - from needle spray to coarse to massaging jets, soft jets, solid stream, and so on. *Plus*, they are available at a water flow of as low as 1-1/4 gpm.



New aerators for kitchen faucets are ultra-efficient and great performers as well, with options like swivel, spray, and pause or turn-off levers. Choose a 1 or 2 gpm to model save water, *and* save on your water bill.

Here’s another idea; change your bathroom faucet aerator to save even more. They are available as low as 1/2 gpm.



An additional advantage is that using less water in the kitchen and bath means your water heater is used less too.

High-efficiency fixtures save water - and money! They are inexpensive and easy to install. Ask at your local home improvement store, or shop online.

Sources: USEPA; Niagara Conservation (www.niagaraconservation.com)

How to Change a Shower Head

Would you like to change your existing showerhead for a more water-efficient model?. With plumbing that is in good condition, it can be an easy task. Here's how:

- 1. Turn off the water to the shower:** as long as your faucets are in the "off" position you won't need to turn off the water to the house.
- 2. Unscrew the existing shower head:** turn counter-clockwise. Avoid applying too much pressure or the shower arm may break. (If the old hardware has mineral build up around it, removing it may be difficult. Do not wrench it off as you risk cracking the feed pipe.)
- 3. Remove excess dirt:** once the old showerhead is off, wipe the threads on the neck clean and dry.
- 4. Apply Teflon® tape:** use enough tape to wrap around the threads, covering about half of the tape width as you wrap up the threads. Start at the base and wrap clockwise until the threads are covered.
- 5. Attach new shower head:** read the instructions; some showerheads require a wrench; others can be put on by hand. Screw the showerhead clockwise onto the taped threads. The new showerhead should be screwed on snugly, but do not over-tighten.
- 6. Turn on water:** turn on the shower faucets and check for leaks: if there is a leak at the connection, turn the water off and tighten 1/4 turn.



Plant of the Month

ARIZONA ROSEWOOD -
Vauquelinia californica

This evergreen plant is a great alternative to Oleanders in today's landscape designs. It is recommended for hedges and accent planting. A hedge of Arizona Rosewood can serve well as a privacy screen or noise barrier. It has clusters of snowy white to cream colored flowers that bloom from spring to summer. The leaves are long, dark green and leathery.



While in nature this plant gets by on minimal water, in landscaping it does best with occasional deep soaking. Growth is generally slow the first year, then increases as the plant matures. Size will vary according to conditions and can reach 25 feet in height - prune for desired shape and size.

For more information on low water use gardening, see www.jbwd.com or www.hdawac.org



The Arizona Rosewood is native to canyons and hillsides of Arizona and Baja California, at altitudes of 2,500 to 5,000 feet. Known for its ability to tolerate extreme temperatures and dry conditions, the *Vauquelinia californica* is a good choice for landscaping in the California High Desert.

Photos courtesy of fireflyforest.com © T. Beth Kinsey

Bonus Tip

Consider using a five-minute shower timer like the example shown below

