



VISIT OUR WATER WISE DEMONSTRATION GARDEN

PO Box 675 • 61750 Chollita Road • Joshua Tree CA 92252
Phone (760) 366-8438 • Fax (760) 366-9528 Visit us at: www.jbwd.org

Our mission is to provide:
a high standard of water quality and customer service
at responsible cost; to protect the water resources of
Joshua Basin Water District; to promote cooperation
and respect with customers, employees, neighboring
communities and public – private agencies.

JBWD is under a 20%
voluntary water conservation
mandate. Reduce your
water use and “Shed a Tier
for JBWD!”

THE
TIER DROP
NEWSLETTER
NOVEMBER 2016

September 2016 SAVINGS:

18.87%

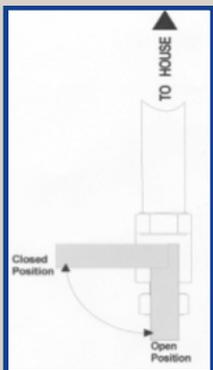
Cumulative conservation June 2016: 16%



HOLIDAY CLOSURES

The District Office will be closed on
Thursday, November 24th and Friday,
November 25th for the Thanksgiving
Holiday. In the event of a water
emergency, call 760.366.8438–
any day, 24 hours a day!

- ✓ **Winterize your home before the first desert freeze comes—it may not only save water, but hundreds of dollars in damages caused by broken frozen pipes. Did you know that aging pipes weaken, and can burst from a temperature freeze after many years of no issues? New pipes can freeze as well. For just pennies, you can avoid this type of home disaster. Follow some of these useful tips to winterize your home now:** *Please remember, all water that passes through the meter is the homeowner’s responsibility, even water lost due to frozen/broken pipes.*
- ✓ **Disconnect and Drain all Outdoor Hoses**—Detaching hoses from outdoor faucets allows water to drain from the hose.
- ✓ **Insulate Pipes or Faucets in Unheated Areas**--If you have pipelines in an unheated garage or cold crawl space under the house, wrap the water pipes before temperatures plummet. Do the same with any outdoor spigots or faucets.

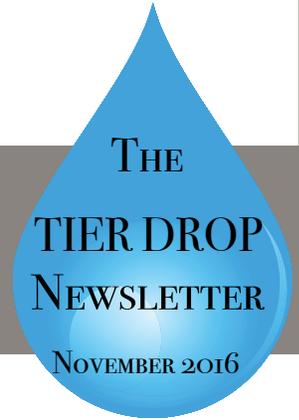


- ✓ **Find the Customer Shutoff Valve**--In case of a leak, everyone in the family needs to know where it is and what it does. It is located in your meter box on the District meter, and is a handle that turns from side to side.
- ✓ **Is your home vacant? Turn off your water!** If you are going to be away from your desert home for more than a day or two in the winter, the water should be turned off at the meter. Before vacating your home, turn off your water at the District meter by using the Customer Shutoff Valve.



"Our Water, Our Community, Our Responsibility"

A Community Owned Water District



UNDERSTANDING CHROMIUM-6: *A first in a series of discussions to help Joshua Basin Customers understand and protect their most precious natural resource: WATER!*

Is My Tap Water Safe?

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. However, some people who drink water containing hexavalent chromium in excess of the minimum contaminant level, over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

If you have other health issues or concerns regarding your consumption of this water, you may wish to consult your doctor.

If you wish to avoid drinking the water provided by our water system, you may wish to use alternative water for drinking and cooking.

Three Common Forms of Chromium

The most common forms of chromium in the environment are:

- ▶ **Trivalent Chromium (chromium-3)**
 - ▶ Chromium-3 occurs naturally in many vegetables, fruits, meats and grains, and in yeast.
 - ▶ It is an essential nutritional element for humans and is often added to vitamins as a dietary supplement. Chromium-3 has relatively low toxicity.
- ▶ **Hexavalent chromium (chromium-6)**
 - ▶ While it occurs naturally in the Joshua Tree area, it is also a by-product from the manufacturing industry (see below uses.)
- ▶ **The metal form of chromium (chromium-0).**

Follow this series monthly to learn more!

DID YOU KNOW?

Hexavalent Chromium-6 is a natural element that existed in the groundwater long before people came to live in Joshua Tree. Throughout the United States, the Federal Government allows 100 parts per billion of Total Chromium to exist in the public water source before any treatment must occur. Joshua Basin Water District is in compliance with the Federal Standards.

Until very recently California's safe drinking water standard for Total Chromium was 50 parts per billion for a public water source. Joshua Basin Water District met that compliance standard.

In 2014, the legislature established a new state standard for Chromium-6, allowing only 10 parts per billion. The water in Joshua Basin Water District's aquifer does not meet this new standard.

The State recognizes the magnitude of this **unfunded mandate**, and to date, has given Water Districts and Water Agencies throughout California until the year 2020 to meet this new standard. To learn more about the new State mandate, and what Joshua Basin Water District is doing to comply with these new standards, go to:

<http://www.jbwd.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/JBWD-CR6-Public-Notice-2016-10-03.pdf>



Chromium-6 is used for chrome plating and the production of stainless steel as well as other industrial uses.

However, the Chromium-6 in the JBWD aquifers is not from industrial uses, but occurs naturally.

Characteristics of Chromium

Chromium is odorless and tasteless. It occurs naturally in various types of rock, soil, ore and volcanic dust as well as in plants, animals and humans.