

Lose those leaks

Drip, drip, drip... you know you hear it or suspect it. Leaks around the house can add up to hundreds or thousands of gallons of wasted water each year. If you've been putting off fixing indoor or outdoor leaks, we're here with inspiration from customers and advice from EBMUD pros. It's time to nip those leaks in the bud.



Shower showdown

Tse-Sung Wu, of Berkeley, estimates his shower had a chronic leak for the past 10 years. "I'm not that handy," admits Wu. So, he turned to a trusted plumber to fix a faulty shower diverter, the valve that directs water between the shower head and the tub. Within 45 minutes, a decade-long leak disappeared.

"I knew this leak was a problem, but never fixed it, thinking it couldn't be done easily or was too expensive," Wu said. "I just can't believe how easy it was."

The results: Wu's shower is using 25 percent less shower water thanks to the repair. Plus, he'll get his money back from the repair in about year through savings on his water and energy bills.



Pool problem solved

Last summer, Ted Comfoltey and his wife Gabrielle, of Blackhawk, were on vacation. Back at home, their pool was hard at work, spilling 7,000 gallons a day. Ted spotted the excessive water use online when he checked his home water use with the WaterSmart Toolbox, an EBMUD pilot program that uses advanced metering technology.

"It took some investigation, but I pinpointed the source of the leak—our automatic pool filler. We've had it for years and it was overdue for replacement," Comfoltey said.

The result: This pool is on its best behavior, refilling only when it needs to. As a bonus, Comfoltey bought a pool cover to minimize evaporation, saving even more water.



Your go-to for leaks: Check out EBMUD's homeowners guide to fix common leaks in toilets, water heaters, showers and more. Visit EBMUD.com/leaks.



Salmon vs. drought: a survival story

Need inspiration? Look no further than the approximately 12,000 Chinook salmon who defied the odds of the drought and swam from the Pacific Ocean to the Mokelumne River this fall.

Waters were low, warm and stagnant—a lethal formula for fish returning to natal streams to spawn. This year, the American River, just one river north of the Mokelumne, saw a below-average return of fall-run Chinook salmon. Yet, the Mokelumne's salmon population fared well thanks to a little help.

For the fourth consecutive year, the number of Chinook salmon returning to the Mokelumne River, where EBMUD gets nearly all its water, exceeded 12,000 fish, nearly tripling our long-term average. These healthy returns add up to a healthy river system.



EBMUD staff tested creative ways to provide good migration conditions by mimicking rains storms using pulses of water downstream. These simulated waves guided fish home—like GPS navigation. One of our partners, Woodbridge Irrigation District, in Lodi, also on Mokelumne, changed its dam operations to increase and deliver extra pulses.

To deal with higher water temperatures, EBMUD biologists turned to Pardee Reservoir, the heart of EBMUD's water supply. Pulling cold water from the bottom of the reservoir created ideal spawning temperatures in the Mokelumne River.

Now, all eyes are set on ensuring the juvenile salmon produced from these 12,000 adults survive to make it back to the Mokelumne in 3 to 5 years.

According to EBMUD's Supervising Fisheries Biologist Michelle Workman, EBMUD is gearing up to handle a dry year, and is prepared if conditions worsen.

"A lot happens to ensure we have a good run," Workman said. "Luckily, we have a few tricks up our sleeve to meet the life stage needs of fish."

5 simple steps to save 15%

If the idea of cutting back your water use further makes your head spin, you've come to the right place. The pros at EBMUD offer ways to help you cut back water use 15 percent—the new conservation goal for 2015 set in response to the drought.



Rebate redemption. If you are on the market for a new washing machine or toilet, switch to a high-efficiency model and cash in on rebates offered by EBMUD.



Find and fix leaks. Uncover those sneaky leaks and water-wasting fixtures with our free WaterSmart Home Survey Kit.



Do the math. With our home water use calculator you'll be surprised by how much water you actually use each day. Get ready for a reality check.



Goodbye lawn, hello rebate. Make the shift to a sustainable landscape or upgrade to high-efficiency irrigation equipment and qualify for a rebate.



Mulch much? Called a gardener's best friend, mulch helps soil retain moisture, stifles weeds and beautifies your garden. What else could you want? How about mulch coupons, available at EBMUD.com.

Go to EBMUD.com/drought for these tools and rebates, plus the latest information on water supply and drought restrictions.



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EBMUD Mission Statement

To manage the natural resources with which the District is entrusted; to provide reliable, high-quality water and wastewater services at fair and reasonable rates for the people of the East Bay; and to preserve and protect the environment for future generations.



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