

Give Your Irrigation System a Vacation – AND Save Some Money

This is a great time of year to give your sprinkler system a break — and reduce your water bill! The weather is changing and your landscape doesn't have that unquenchable thirst for water as it did in the summer.

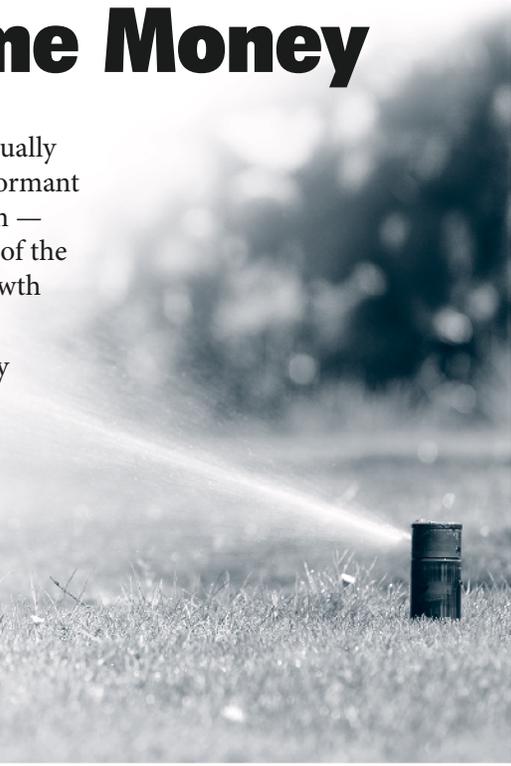
Consider your landscape's watering needs:

- Plants are preparing for dormancy. This means they don't take in as much water and the rate at which moisture evaporates from the soil is significantly less than it was just one month ago.
- Roots continue to grow at a snail's pace during dormancy. Apply mulch to conserve existing soil moisture and help protect plant roots from freezing temperatures.

- The cooler, wetter weather is usually sufficient for our soon-to-be-dormant lawns. Any additional irrigation — especially during certain times of the day — only encourages the growth of fungi.

You can help out your landscape by simply turning off your irrigation system.

Need help with your irrigation system controller? SAWS conservation consultants provide year-round, water-wise advice. Call 210-704-SAVE (704-7283) to make an appointment.



Billing Cycle	Winter Averaging Starts	Winter Averaging Ends	Month Billed
12	Nov. 16	Feb. 22	March
13	Nov. 17	Feb. 23	March
14	Nov. 18	Feb. 24	March
15	Nov. 19	Feb. 25	March
16	Nov. 20	Feb. 26	March
17	Nov. 23	Feb. 29	March
18	Nov. 24	March 1	April
19	Nov. 25	March 2	April
20	Nov. 30	March 3	April
1	Dec. 2	March 7	April
2	Dec. 3	March 8	April
3	Dec. 4	March 9	April
4	Dec. 7	March 10	April
5	Dec. 8	March 11	April
6	Dec. 9	March 14	April
7	Dec. 10	March 15	April
8	Dec. 11	March 16	April
9	Dec. 14	March 17	April
10	Dec. 15	March 18	April
11	Dec. 16	March 21	April

Winter Averaging Time is Here

Turning off your irrigation system now can save you money all year long. Since SAWS sewer charges are based on your average winter water use, watering your landscape less now can add up to big savings throughout 2016.

Winter averaging monitors the amount of water you use during three complete billing cycles from mid-November to mid-March to calculate your sewer fee for the whole year.

Your billing cycle can be found on the front of your monthly statement just below the account number.

Save water now, save money later. It's a win-win!

Join the **MySAWS** conversation:





▶ December Duck Day at Mitchell Lake

Dec. 5, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., 10750 Pleasanton Rd.

Learn all about South Texas' water fowl via family-friendly workshops, activities and duck-spotting tours around the wetlands. Details at mitchelllake.audubon.org/events.

Local Calendar

Prep Your Landscape for the Holiday Season

November and December weather is typically mild in San Antonio, making it the perfect time to get outdoors and tend to some landscape chores.

Get started with these "Ps":

- **Planting** – fall is the ideal time in South Texas to plant trees and perennials
- **Pruning** – late November through the middle of February is the best time to prune trees and large shrubs.

- **Planning** – think about what fared well and what didn't this past year. For example, if you've replaced turf more than twice in the past five years, now is a good time to go in another direction.

Visit GardenStyleSA.com to find out what coupons are available to help you. Before you know it, your landscape will be prime for decorating come Christmas time!

Zoo Lights Holiday Nights

Nov. 27 - Jan. 3

San Antonio Zoo
3903 N. St. Mary's St.
sazoo.org/zoo_lights

La Tamalada

Dec. 5

Witte Museum
3801 Broadway
wittemuseum.org

Dog Days: Happy Howlidays

Dec. 5-6

San Antonio Botanical Garden
555 Funston
sabot.org

Humana Rock 'n' Roll San Antonio Marathon

Dec. 5-6

Alamodome (start/finish)
100 Montana St.
runrocknroll.com/san-antonio

Celebrate San Antonio

Dec. 31

Alamo Street
(between Market and Cesar Chavez)
celebratesa.org

Grease, Wipes and Pipes Don't Mix

The holidays are upon us and the Grease Monster is lurking nearby, just waiting for you to rinse all the oily leftovers from your plates, pots and pans right down the drain. And he's got some help.



Those so-called "flushables," aka personal cleansing wipes and hygiene products, may not clog your toilet, but they cause a bundle of trouble for the sewer system.

Instead of dissolving like toilet paper, these wipes clump together with grease, forming long, mop-like clumps of gunk that clog sewer pipes and damage equipment.

Remember, wipes clog pipes. No matter what the product packaging says, only three things are truly flushable: human waste, toilet paper and water.

Don't give the Grease Monster any help this holiday season. Scrape the grease off of plates, pots and pans and dispose in the trash — along with those not-really-flushable wipes.

SAWS Offices Close for Holidays 24/7-Emergency Services Still Running

San Antonio Water System offices will close for the following holidays:

Thanksgiving – Thursday and Friday, Nov. 26-27

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day – Thursday and Friday, Dec. 24-25

New Year's Eve and New Year's Day – Thursday-Friday, Dec. 31-Jan. 1

SAWS 24-hour emergency line, 704-SAWS (704-7297), and emergency field crews will continue operation.



SAWS CUSTOMER SERVICE or **24-HOUR EMERGENCY**
704-SAWS (7297)

PAST EDITIONS
www.saws.org/waternews