

Put the spring back in spring cleaning

Keep pollutants out of the Bay and toxic cleaners out of your home

Ready to purge piles from your garage, wash your windows or tackle those tough cleaning projects this spring?

Not so fast. Cleaning up your home and garage can take a toll on the San Francisco Bay.

Never pour hazardous household products down indoor or outdoor drains. Every drop flushed or rinsed away eventually makes its way to the Bay. Wastewater treatment cannot remove all the chemicals often found in cleaning products, medication, paint, garden pesticides or other products.

Improve your spring cleaning with these three Bay-friendly tips.

Visit www.ebmud.com and www.baywise.org for simple ways to spring clean every room of your home while keeping the Bay and your family's health in mind.



GOOD

Dispose of hazardous household products properly.

Take hard-to-dispose household items, such as unwanted cleaning products, old paint, garden chemicals, cooking oil, unused medicine or automotive fluids, to an Alameda County or Contra Costa County household hazardous waste collection center.

BETTER

Choose environmentally-friendly cleaning products.

Many household cleaning products contain chemicals that may be harmful to the environment and your home. Avoid cleaning products containing chlorinated compounds, petroleum distillates, phenols and formaldehyde.

BEST

Make your own household cleaners.

Basic ingredients clean and disinfect while being easy on the Bay and your family.

- Baking soda mixed with water makes an all-purpose cleaner.
- Borax removes stains on toilet bowls.
- Lemon removes greasy fingerprints on windows.
- Toothpaste cleans silver (but not gel toothpaste).
- Vegetable-based liquid soap (such as castile soap) diluted with water makes an all-purpose cleaner.
- Salt can remove red wine stains.
- White distilled vinegar, diluted in water, is a good all-purpose cleaner that can rinse and remove baking soda residue.

Remember to keep all cleaning mixtures away from children and pets!

Troubleshoot the tap

Have you noticed a change in the flow or pressure of water flowing from your fixtures? Here's how to troubleshoot indoor water pressure and flow problems:



Has your water pressure changed?

It has gradually decreased. If you have pre-1960s home, you may have galvanized steel plumbing that has gradually corroded inside and is restricting the flow to some or all of your fixtures. Even if you have copper plumbing, the pipeline between your home and the water meter may be galvanized. If your plumbing is significantly obstructed, the best solution is to replace it.

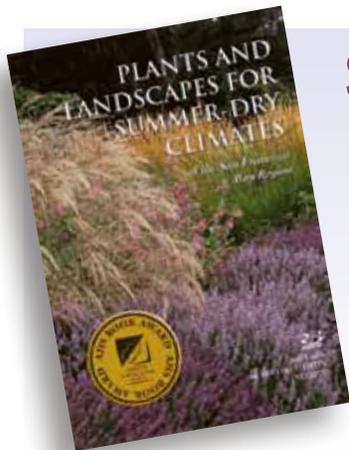
It has suddenly decreased. A sudden decrease in pressure or flow may be due to EBMUD crews making repairs to a nearby water pipeline. Your pressure and flow should return to normal when the work is complete.

It has increased. The most common cause of an increase in water pressure is a pressure regulator that is not working properly. Most pressure regulators are installed on pipes where the plumbing enters the building. These devices decrease the water pressure in areas where it is high enough to damage plumbing fixtures. If you suspect that you have high pressure and you are unable to locate a pressure regulator on your property, contact EBMUD at 1-866-40-EBMUD for assistance.

Is the problem at all taps, or just one or two fixtures?

All taps. If the low flow is evident at all taps, look for the house or building's supply valve and make sure it is fully open. Supply valves may have been left partially closed after recent remodeling or repairs.

One or two fixtures. If the problem is isolated to a couple fixtures or to one general area of your home, check that the supply valves underneath sinks and toilets are fully open.



Spring is here, let's garden!

Fall may be the best time for planting, but there is still plenty for East Bay gardeners to do this spring. But where to start?

Use EBMUD's award-winning plant book *Plants and Landscapes for Summer-Dry Climates of the San Francisco Bay Region* to create a brilliant garden display all year. With more than 650 plants to choose from, learn how to select beautiful plants that can thrive with moderate to low summer water in your climate zone.

Read how to design a garden that attracts wildlife and uses no harmful chemicals.

EBMUD's plant book, along with good advice from your local nursery and a landscape architect or landscape contractor, will make your garden more attractive and viable all year.

Order the book at www.ebmud.com/watersmart. EBMUD customers receive \$5 off the price of \$34.95 (soft cover) or \$49.95 (hard cover).

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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.