**Why is warm water coming out of my cold faucet?**

This is a common question during the summer, especially from new desert residents. When the hot summer sun bakes the earth, the heated ground warms the pipes that deliver water to your home.

**Is the water warmer in specific areas of the valley?**

The less that water circulates through a system, the warmer it’s likely to be.

For example, if your residence is in a partially developed neighborhood, your water may be warmer than if you live in a fully developed neighborhood where more water is being used on a consistent basis.

**What is Coachella Valley Water District doing about warm water?**

Unfortunately, this summer phenomenon is a fact of life in the desert. Past experiments with burying water pipes as deep as five feet below the surface showed no appreciable difference in the water temperature.

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**How can I save water and money on my next bill?**

First, be aware that most households in the desert use 70 to 80 percent of the water outside on landscaping, washing cars, hosing driveways and filling pools.

Therefore, smarter water management outside the home will have the most significant overall impact on your water use and water bill.

**Conservation tips for outside the home**

1. Adjust your irrigation time with the seasons. An average spray irrigation system needs only to run 3-4 minutes per day in the winter to keep grass healthy.

2. Replace at least a portion of your grass with water-efficient landscaping, rocks and decomposed granite. Converting an all-grass lawn to all desert landscaping can result in a 70 percent reduction in water use. Coachella Valley Water District’s landscaping guide Lush & Efficient Gardening in the Coachella Valley offers more than 100 examples of colorful options that require little water.

3. Sprinklers should be positioned to water the yard, not sidewalks and streets. Try changing the angle of a sprinkler head or using a type that sprays flat to avoid water loss due to wind.

   Move sprinkler heads two feet from hardscape, designing the edges of the yard with water-efficient plants on a drip irrigation system.

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**Why are there sand particles in my water?**

The Coachella Valley's drinking water comes from a vast underground aquifer. The wells that pump the water from the ground into the delivery system are designed to filter out sand, but some particles make it into the system. These particles typically settle in large water pipes and tanks, but sometimes make it through the faucet.

**Is it OK to drink water with sand particles?**

These sand particles are completely harmless and pose no health risk.

**What if the amount of sand particles increases?**

Repairs to water pipes and the use of fire hydrants (for fighting fires or construction crews) can stir up the particles resting in the pipes and typically cause a temporary increase in sand. When this happens, allowing the sand to settle and then flushing your faucets will remove the sand.

In rare cases, sand particles can represent an on-going nuisance. If you experience this, call the water district for an inspection.
Why is my water cloudy?
Cloudy tap water is caused by air bubbles in the water. Air dissolves into water when pressurized, which occurs in the groundwater basin and in the water pipes.

Is it OK to drink?
Air bubbles are completely harmless and pose no health risk. If you prefer the look of clear water, simply let it sit for a few moments and the air will dissipate.

Conservation tips for inside the home
Leaks cause the most significant amount of wasted water inside the home.
1. Replace worn-out fixtures, washers and o-rings to avoid leaking faucets. Small leaks in faucets and toilets can waste 200 gallons per day. Moderate leaks can waste up to 800 gallons per day.
2. To determine if you have a leak in your system, shut off all water-using fixtures and the irrigation system and look at your meter (be careful of spiders or bees under the lid). If the dial is showing water use, despite everything being turned off, there is a leak. For small leaks you may have to note the dial position and return several minutes later to determine if there has been movement.

What can I do about warm water coming out of my cold faucet?
First, be aware that water right out of the cold water tap can come out as high as 101 degrees in extreme conditions. You can try running your water for a short time before touching to clear the water within your home. If the temperature does not drop within one minute, it is doubtful that continual flushing will improve the situation.
The best solution is to place a pitcher of tap water in the refrigerator for a ready supply of cold drinking water.

For more information about this and other water issues, call Coachella Valley Water District at (760) 398-2651 or (800) 262-2651.
www.cvwd.org