

Preparing For Mother Nature

With summer now in our rear view mirror, we can start to say goodbye to long days at the beach and say hello to spiced pumpkin lattes!

The fall season will bring more to the table than new coffee house flavors; it also brings cooler weather, falling leaves and this year, possibly even an El Nino! There is strong indication that an El Nino of epic proportions could bring torrential rainfall lasting well into winter. While precipitation would be a welcome relief to our drought-stricken state, heavy downpours could bring more rain than we are prepared to handle. An El Nino is characterized by larger-than-normal storms bringing heavy rainfall to the Southern United States so enthusiasm for much needed rain can quickly shift to concern for mudslides and flooding.

While there's no way to stop an El Nino from coming, we can prepare for it. Recent weather trends indicate hotter temperatures in general and the likelihood of more extreme weather events – such as potential flooding due to El Nino. By taking precautionary measures now, we can be prepared for periods of drought and other harsh weather.

When large amounts of precipitation occur in a short amount of time, it often results in a substantial amount of rain water running off into the storm drains rather than being absorbed by the plants and vegetation. Harvesting rainwater is a simple step you can take to not only conserve water, but also help prevent flooding around your home. Most rain barrels can be attached directly to your rain gutter system allowing for the water that would typically drain off your roof to collect in barrels for future use. To put it into perspective, one inch of rain on a 1,000 square foot rooftop would yield 600 gallons of water!

Rebates for rain barrels are still available while supplies last and can offset most, if not all, the cost to purchase. You could end up getting a rain barrel for almost less than the cost of a spiced pumpkin latte (price after rebate)! Rebate information can be found at www.SaveWaterOceanside.com under programs and rebates.

There is no way to predict how much rain will actually fall or how many storms will actually cross the Southern California region, however by being proactive we can assure that we'll be prepared for whatever mother nature throws our way!



 Collect the water you use while rinsing fruit and vegetables. Use it to water house plants.

