WATER EFFICIENCY
A RINCON WAY OF LIFE!

Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians — Vision Unity Perseverance

The Rincon Reservation relies 100 PERCENT on the groundwater stored in the aquifer below the reservation.

Help conserve water to preserve the tribe's precious water supply.

INDOORS

- Shorten showers and turn off faucets
- Get an Energy Star labeled washing machine.
- Wash full loads of clothes
- Run the dishwasher only when full
- Install water-efficient appliances.
- Repair leaking toilets & faucets

OUTDOORS

- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways and patios
- Install covers on pools and spas to reduce evaporation
- Use a self-closing hose nozzle for washing a car
- Repair leaking hose bibbs

LANDSCAPING

- Water in the late evening or early morning to reduce evaporation
- Add 3 inches of mulch around trees and plants to reduce evaporation
- Install aerators with flow restrictors on faucets and showerheads
- Turn off irrigation systems before rainstorms
- Repair leaks and broken sprinklers
- Install a landscaping timer or "weather-based irrigation controller" for watering systems
- Replace your lawn with native or low-water plants

SEPTIC SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

How often a septic tank needs to be pumped depends on the system design and how your household uses the system. Complete this chart, repeating every few years to gauge how often you should have your tank inspected or pumped. Remember, these are guidelines. Your Maintainer or Service Provider can give you a better estimate of your pumping needs. State and local codes may dictate the maximum amount of time between tank cleanings.

Drainfield or Leachfield

Pipe

Septic Tank

EFFECTS	FACTOR POINTS
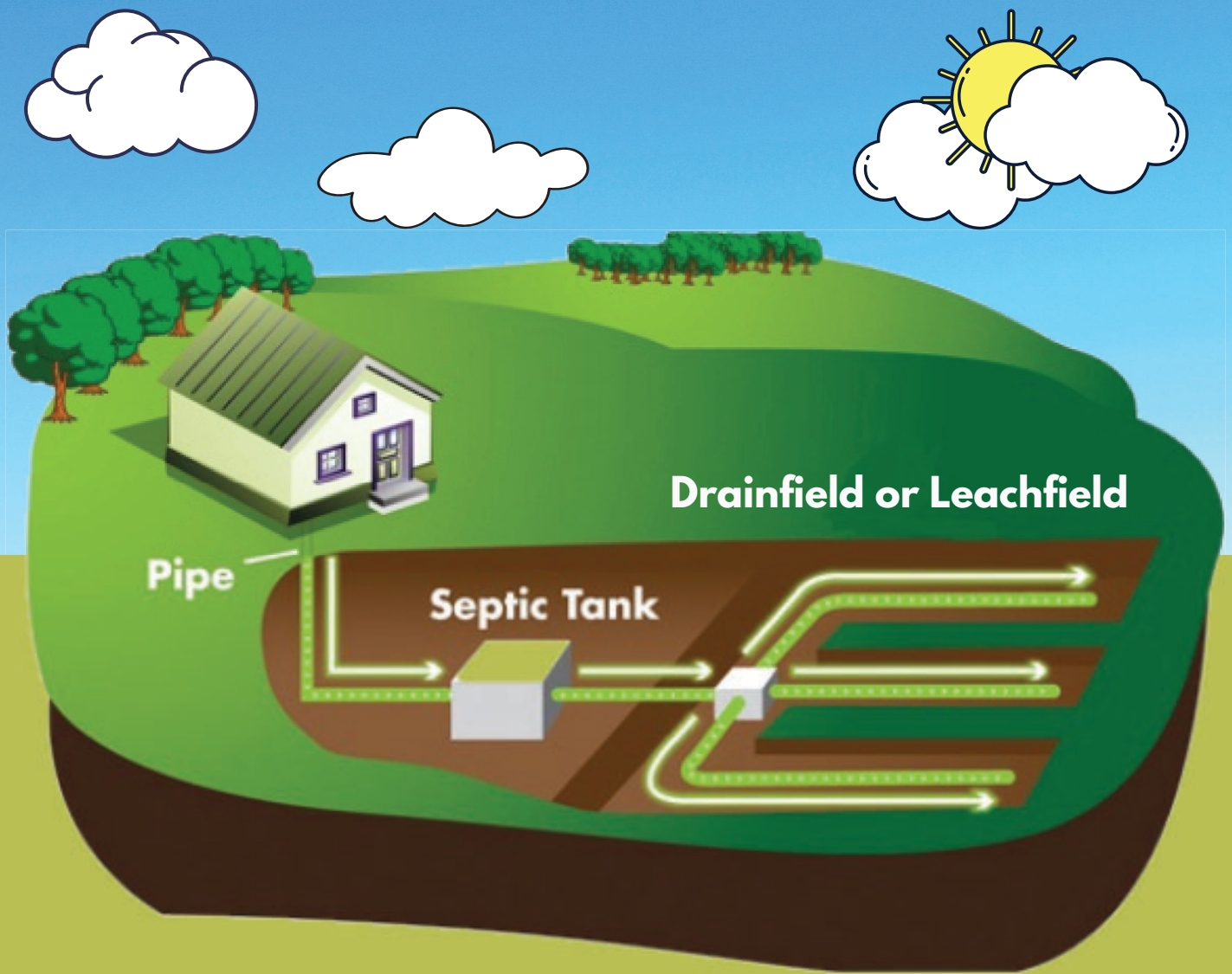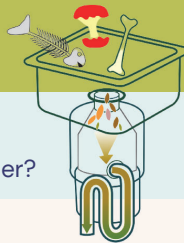
Food Waste
Garbage disposal or dishwasher with a food grinder?

- No, enter 0
- Yes, use every other day or less often, enter 1
- Yes, use at least once per day, enter 2

_____

Recharged Water
Use a water-conditioning unit for which recharge water is connected to the septic system?
(Water softener, iron filter or other devices)

- No, enter 0
- Yes, 1 unit, enter 1
- Yes, 2 units or more, enter 2

_____

Laundry
How often do you do laundry?

- Spread out during the week with no more than 2 loads/day, enter 0
- 3 loads/day, several times/week, enter 2
- More than 3 loads/day, several times/week, enter 4

_____

Washer
Use a water-conserving top-loading washer or a front-loading washing machine?

- No, enter 1
- Yes, enter 0

_____

Water Usage
Use low-flow showerheads, toilets; not leave the faucet running and repair leaks quickly?

- No, enter 2
- Sometimes or have made some changes, enter 1
- Yes, we make repairs quickly, enter 0

_____

Type of Detergents
Use few and mild cleaning products and detergents, limiting anti-bacterial products?

- No, enter 1
- Yes, enter 0

_____

In-Home Business
Do you have an in-home business that increases water use? (such as a daycare, taxidermy shop, or hair salon)

- No, enter 0
- Yes, enter 2

_____

Amount of Visitors
Do you have 3 or more overnight guests at a time, or have large groups visit your house?

- Never to once/month, enter 0
- 2-4 nights/month and/or 1 large group, enter 1
- 5-8 nights/month and/or 2 large groups, enter 2
- More than 8 nights with more than 3 guests, frequent large gatherings in your home, enter 4

_____

Septic Tank Size
Is your septic tank (not including pump tanks) smaller than...

Tank Capacity	Bedrooms
1,000	3 or fewer
1500	4-5
2000	6 or more

- No, enter 0
- Don't know, enter 1
- Yes, enter 2

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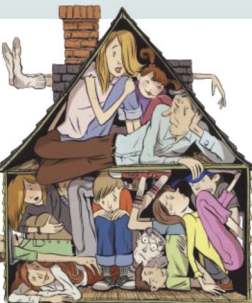
Number of Residents
Are there more people living in your home than there are bedrooms?

Number of People	Bedrooms
3	2 or fewer
4	3
5	4
6 or more	5 or more

- No, enter 0
- Yes, enter 2

_____

When was the last time your septic tank was pumped or evaluated (inspected)?

- Less than 3 years ago, enter 0
- 3-5 years ago, enter 1
- More than 5 years ago, enter 3

_____

Add your TOTAL score, enter here. (Compare your score to the risk level chart below)

_____

SCORE	RISK LEVEL	OUTCOME
0 – 8	LOW RISK	Based on your system and positive use habits, your sytem should be evaluated once every 2-3 years to determine if tank cleaning is necessary. Do not go more than 3 years without an evaluation. Some counties and municipalities require pumping or inspection every 3 years.
9 – 18	MEDIUM RISK	Based on your tank size and use habits, your system should be evaluated every 1 1/2 – 2 1/2 years to determine if tank cleaning is necessary.
19 – 26	HIGH RISH	Based on your tank size and use habits, your system should be evaluated annually to determine if tank cleaning is necessary.

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HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS

Harmful algae blooms occur from both natural processes and human activities, but human activities are significantly increasing the frequency, spread, and toxicity of harmful algae blooms.

Certain types of blue-green algae that grow in freshwater lakes and streams can release chemicals that are harmful to humans and animals.

Inland lakes throughout California have had increasingly frequent occurrences of harmful algae blooms, including Lake Henshaw which is upstream of the Rincon Reservation.

Causes of Freshwater Algal Blooms

Increased Nutrients to Freshwater
Often from animal manure and chemical fertilizers which allow an algae bloom to grow out of control

Warmer Water
Allows cyanobacteria to grow faster than other less harmful algae species

Still or Stagnant Water
Freshwater may not mix, which causes warm water to stay on the surface and cooler water to stay at deeper depths

CAUTION

PAY ATTENTION TO POSTED WARNING SIGNS

WARNING

Avoid Harmful Blue-green Algae Blooms
while swimming, fishing and boating

People and animals can have severe reactions to toxic algae, including stomach upset, neurological damage, or even death.

If you think you might have been exposed or develop symptoms, contact your healthcare provider or Poison Control Center.

Signs of Harmful Algal Blooms

Different Water Colors
Green, blue, red or brown, scum on the surface of the water

Water Surface
Foam, scum, or paint-like streaks on the water surface

Smell
As the bloom dies off it may smell like rotting plants

ANIMAL SAFETY ALERT

Pets are also at risk of poisoning from swimming, drinking the water, eating dead fish and other animals found near a bloom, and licking algae or scum from their fur after swimming.

Take action if your pets or livestock go near or into water with a cyanobacterial bloom. Immediately wash them off with clean water to keep them from licking cyanobacteria off their fur.

Call a veterinarian if your animal shows any signs of sickness within a day or so after being in contact with water.

For more information: Contact Rincon Government Center at 760.749.1051.

CO2

CARBON

FOOTPRINT

REDUCING OUR

Footprint

ON THE EARTH

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What is a Carbon Footprint?

What is a carbon footprint? Your carbon footprint is the amount of greenhouse gases (such as carbon dioxide and methane) that are released into the air because of the energy you use every day. Each person needs transportation, electricity, food, clothing, and other goods, and these take energy to power or create.

For example, how much carbon dioxide (CO_2) would it take to create one cotton t-shirt?[1] (1 kilogram of CO_2 is produced by driving about 2.5 miles in a car).

- Cultivating the cotton = 1 kilogram of CO_2
- Spinning cotton thread = 1 kilogram of CO_2
- Making the cloth = 3 kilograms of CO_2
- Dying the cloth = 0.01 kilogram of CO_2 per wear
- Packing, storing, and shipping = 3 kilograms of CO_2

So buying one cotton t-shirt is roughly equivalent to driving 20 miles in a car. Think of how many t-shirts a single family has... it adds up!

How Can We Reduce our Carbon Footprint?

Reduce
Avoiding buying unnecessary items is the best way to reduce your material carbon footprint

Reuse
Reusing items extends the life of the product and fewer items are needed

Recycle
Recycling reuses plastics and metals that have already been processed, so it takes less energy to recycle the material into something else

REDUCE ENERGY USE AND USE RENEWABLE ENERGY

Lower your energy use around the house – lower power demand requires less fossil fuels.

Carpool or use public transit – driving together is more energy efficient.

Use solar, wind, or other renewable energy where possible.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change is caused by an increase of greenhouse gasses, such as carbon dioxide and methane, which trap excess heat inside the earth's atmosphere.

The current planet-wide warming trend is, without a doubt, the result of humanity's burning of fossil fuels. This trend is proceeding at a rate that has not been seen over millennia (International Panel on Climate Change report www.ipcc.ch/report).

WHAT CAUSES GREENHOUSE GASSES

Transportation
Gasoline-powered engines from cars, trucks, and SUVs

Electricity
Burning coal, gas, and oil to create electricity to power homes and businesses

Consumer Goods
Energy is used throughout the whole life-cycle of a product, from creation to transportation to disposal

Agricultural
Energy used in the production, storage, processing, packaging, and preparation of foods, and methane releases from cows and other livestock

POTENTIAL IMPACTS TO YOU

- More frequent heat waves can be caused by rising global average temperatures
- Greater wildfire risks are associated with hotter, drier conditions
- Increased risk of drought from smaller mountain snow packs and higher temperatures
- Increase in intensity and frequency of severe storms and flooding

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Cycling, public transit and ridesharing are great alternatives to driving solo

Use renewable energy to reduce your energy use and bills

Respect and protect green spaces. Plant trees

Cut consumption and reduce waste

Consider eating less meat and dairy