

WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

- Check toilets for leaks. Put a drop of food coloring in your toilet tank. If, without flushing, the color begins to appear in the bowl, you have a leak that should be repaired immediately. Even a small leak can waste hundreds of gallons a month.
- Replace your toilet - those manufactured after 1994 use only 1.6 gallons per flush. Or consider placing a plastic gallon container in the toilet tank to save water with each flush.
- Stop using the toilet as an ashtray or wastebasket. Every time you flush a cigarette butt, facial tissue, or other small bit of trash, you waste five to seven gallons of water.
- Check faucets and pipes for leaks. Even the smallest drip from a worn washer can waste 20 or more gallons a day. Longer leaks can waste hundreds.
- Install low-flow aerators on all faucets.
- Take shorter showers. Save up to 5-10 gallons for every minute you cut back.
- Install low-flow showerheads that use no more than 2.5 gallons per minute at maximum flow.
- Turn off the water after you wet your toothbrush.
- Rinse your razor in the sink.
- Store a pitcher of water in the refrigerator for drinking so you won't have to let the faucet run to get cold water.
- Wash full loads in your dishwasher and washing machine.
- Use the proper washer level or load size selection on clothes washers.
- Replace the more common, less efficient, top loading clothes with a high-efficiency, front-loading washer that uses about 30 percent less water and 40-50 percent less energy.
- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean sidewalks and driveways.
- Wash your car or house windows with a bucket of soapy water, and only use the hose for a quick rinse.
- Water the lawn in the early morning or evening hours every other day.
- Plant drought resistant plants and shrubs.
- Put a layer of mulch around trees and plants to retain moisture.
- Use a timer to remember to turn off sprinklers. No more than 5 minutes per zone.
- Adjust sprinklers to water the lawn not the pavement.

Did you know?

Based on National Averages for a typical single-family household of 4 persons (California Department of Resources):

- Lawn watering accounts for nearly half of the water used by most homes.
- Residential landscapes are over watered as much as 20 to 40 percent.
- The toilet consumes 25% of all water used by the homeowner.
- A small faucet leak (80 drips per minute) wastes 7 gallons of water per day.
- An automatic clothes washer uses 30-35 gallons of water for each cycle.
- A shower uses up to 8 gallons per minute.
- A bathtub uses 25-30 gallons.
- A dishwasher uses 10-20 gallons per load.
- A toilet uses up to 6 gallons per flush.
- Kitchen and Bathroom faucets use up to 5 gallons per minute.
- A ½ " garden hose uses up to 500 gallons per hour.