



Outdoor Water-Use Efficiency Tips

Lawns

- Limit lawn irrigation to 3 days per week.
- Water lawns before 8 am or after 7 pm, when temperatures are cooler.
- Water for 2-3 minutes, wait 45 minutes, then water again for 2-3 minutes. This schedule will help prevent runoff and water lost through the soil.
- Turn off lawn irrigation systems during rainy periods, and avoid watering during and 48 hours following measurable precipitation.
- Avoid watering your lawn on windy days to limit overspray and evaporation.
- Survey your lawn irrigation system and fix any sprinklers, valves and lines that may be damaged or leaking water.
- Check to make sure sprinklers are positioned to irrigate your lawn and not your sidewalk, driveway or gutters.
- Install a weather-based smart irrigation controller and water-efficient sprinkler heads (rebates available).
- While hand watering your lawn, focus on dry spots and pay close attention to avoid runoff.

Gardens & Trees

- Water gardens before 8 am or after 7 pm, when temperatures are cooler.
- Turn off garden irrigation systems during rainy periods, and avoid watering during and 48 hours following measurable precipitation.
- Install a drip irrigation system for your garden, shrubs and trees.
- Deep water trees no more than twice a month in the summer and less in the winter.
- Add mulch around trees and plants to limit evaporation and regulate soil temperature.
- Landscape your garden with California-friendly and low water-use plants.
- Survey your garden irrigation system and fix any sprinklers, valves and lines that may be damaged or leaking water.
- Install a weather-based smart irrigation controller and water-efficient sprinkler heads (rebates available).

General Outdoor Water Use

- When washing cars, use a bucket of water with a quick hose rinse at the end and make sure your hose has a shutoff nozzle. When possible, take your car to a car wash that recycles its water.
- Avoid using drinking water to wash driveways and sidewalks. Use a broom instead.
- Turn off and drain your decorative water fountain or feature during the drought.
- Use a pool cover to cut down on evaporation and keep your pool clean.
- Check and fix any leaks on your outdoor hose bibs. Use a shutoff nozzle whenever using a hose.

Indoor Water-Use Efficiency Tips

Bathrooms

- Survey your bathroom plumbing and fix any faucets or plumbing fixtures that may be leaking.
- Fix leaky toilets. Put 3 or 4 drops of food coloring in your toilet tank and wait 15 minutes, any color that appears in the bowl without flushing indicates a leak.
- Install high-efficiency shower heads and faucet aerators (available for free from Golden State Water).
- Choose a short shower over a bath. A bath can use up to 70 gallons of water.
- Capture the cool water in your shower and faucets while waiting for hot water. Use the water on your plants.
- Keep showers to 5 minutes.
- Turn off the water when you brush your teeth

Kitchens

- Survey your kitchen plumbing and fix any faucets or plumbing fixtures that may be leaking.
- Wait to run full loads of laundry and dishes.
- When washing dishes by hand, fill the sink instead of letting the water run.
- Scrape dishes into the garbage instead of running your garbage disposal.
- Keep a bottle of water in the refrigerator to beat the wasteful habit of running tap water to cool it for drinking.
- Wash vegetables and fruits in a pan of water instead of under running water. Use the rinse water on your plants.
- Cook food in as little water as possible. This also helps it retain more nutrients.
- Select the proper pan size for cooking. Large pans may require more cooking water than necessary.