

Water Conservation Tips

Outside Your Home

- Water your lawn early in the morning or at night to avoid excess evaporation.
- Do not over-water your lawn.
- Adjust your lawn mower to a higher setting. Longer grass shades root systems and holds soil moisture.
- Aerate your lawn: Punch holes in your lawn about six inches apart so water will reach the roots rather than run off the surface.
- Check outdoor faucets and hoses for leaks.
- Check automatic sprinklers for leaks, and make sure they are not running when it is raining.
- Use lawn chemicals only when necessary
- Use a broom, rather than a hose to clean sidewalks or driveways
- If you have a swimming pool, use a cover. By so doing, you can cut the loss of water by evaporation by 90 percent.
- Do not pour toxic chemicals (such as cleaning products, motor oil, weed killers, or paints) down the drain. Dispose of them properly. Proper disposal is key to water conservation because water is easily contaminated. One gallon of improperly disposed motor oil can contaminate one million gallons of fresh water.
- Try Container gardening using drip irrigation.
- Plant low water-use plants.
- Check and maintain your evaporative cooler so it runs efficiently and leak-free.
- Use a layer of organic mulch around plants to reduce evaporation.
- Use a hose nozzle to turn off the water while you wash your car.

Inside your Home

- Fully load the dishwasher and clothes washer before running.
- When washing dishes by hand, or when brushing your teeth, do not leave the water running.
- Repair dripping faucets and leaky toilets. Dripping faucets can waste up to 2,000 gallons of water each year in the average home. Leaky toilets can waste as much as 200 gallons per day.

- Defrost frozen food in the refrigerator or in a microwave instead of running hot water over the food.
- Use water-efficient showerheads
- Collect the water you use for rinsing produce and reuse it to water houseplants.
- Insulate hot water pipes so you don't have to run as much water to get hot water to the faucet. You can save this running water too for watering your indoor plants).
- Choose water-saving appliances, like washing machines that save up to 20 gallons per load.
- Turn off the water while you shampoo and condition your hair and you can save more than 10 gallons a week.
- If your toilet was installed prior to 1980, place a toilet dam or bottle filled with water in your toilet tank to cut down on the amount of water used for each flush. Be sure these devices do not interfere with operating parts.

In Your Community

- Report significant water losses from broken pipes, open fire hydrants and errant sprinklers to the property owner or to the Water Agency.
- Use a commercial car wash that recycles water.
- Encourage schools to develop and promote water conservation.
- Support projects that use reclaimed waste water for irrigation and other uses.