

# Save Every Day, Every Way

Water Efficiency is More Important Than Ever



## DIVERSIFICATION

Enhancing Water  
Supply Reliability

San Diego County has been a leader in water conservation efforts for years, and residents cut per capita water use by more than 20 percent between 2007 and 2014.

But after four dry years, California's water supply is stretched thin. It's time for everyone to increase water conservation to help communities around the state hit hard by the

drought and to stretch our region's water supplies in case dry weather continues into 2016.

Thankfully, saving water is easier than you might think. A few simple changes can make a big difference – especially outdoors. More than half of residential water use is for landscape irrigation. To learn more about what you can do go to [whenindrought.org](http://whenindrought.org).

### INDOOR TIPS FOR RESIDENTS

**TIP LEGEND:** No cost - Easy to do    Low cost - More effort required    Higher cost - Most effort required

#### Water Efficiency Tip

#### Estimated Savings

Avoid using running water to thaw frozen foods.	2.5 gallons/minute
Scrape dirty dishes instead of rinsing them before washing.	2.5 gallons/minute
Wash fruits and vegetables in a bowl of water instead of in running water.	2.5 gallons/minute
Keep drinking water in your refrigerator to avoid wasteful running of tap water to cool it off.	2.5 gallons/minute
Run the dishwasher only when full.	2–4.5 gallons/load
Don't leave water running when rinsing dishes.	2.5 gallons/minute
Turn off water when brushing teeth.	2 gallons/minute
Shorten showers.	2.5 gallons/minute
Don't use the toilet as a wastebasket.	1.6 gallons/flush
Wash only full loads of clothes.	15–50 gallons/load
Fix leaky toilets.	30–50 gallons/day/toilet
Fix leaky faucets.	15–20 gallons/day/leak
Install aerators with flow restrictors on kitchen/bathroom faucets.	4.7 gallons/day
Install an instant hot water recirculating system or device.	2.5 gallons/minute
Replace older, inefficient clothes washers.*	20–30 gallons/load
Upgrade to High-Efficiency Toilets.*	0.3–3.8 gallons/flush
Install water-efficient dishwasher.	4.25 gallons/cycle

For a handy calculator that takes individualized input by homeowners and shows which of their water uses are efficient and which are not go to: [WaterSmartSD.org/water-calculator](http://WaterSmartSD.org/water-calculator)

\*Rebates may be available. Visit [WaterSmartSD.org](http://WaterSmartSD.org) for information.

Would you like a professional evaluation of potential water-saving measures for your home? Request a FREE WaterSmart checkup at [WaterSmartSD.org/programs/residential-watersmart-checkup](http://WaterSmartSD.org/programs/residential-watersmart-checkup)

**OUTDOOR TIPS FOR RESIDENTS**

**TIP LEGEND:** No cost - Easy to do    Low cost - More effort required    Higher cost - Most effort required

**LANDSCAPE IRRIGATION**

**Water Efficiency Tip**

**Estimated Savings**

Water only in the late evening or early morning hours to reduce evaporation and interference from wind.

20–25 gallons/day

Don't overwater!

15–25 gallons/minute;

- Turn off irrigation systems before rainstorms and leave them off for as long as possible after. Water only after the top 1 inch of soil is dry.
- Program your irrigation controller to run based on local water agency restrictions. For information on those restrictions visit **WheninDrought.org**.
- Eliminate runoff or wasted water. Shorter or multiple run times can reduce runoff on slopes by allowing water to soak into the soil.

up to 250 gallons/cycle

Adjust sprinklers to prevent overspray and runoff.

15–25 gallons/day

Repair leaks and broken sprinkler nozzles.\*

10 gallons/minute/leak

Add 2" to 3" of mulch around trees & plants to reduce evaporation.

20–30 gals/day/1,000 sq. ft.

Install rain barrels.\*

varies

Install a graywater system to help irrigate your landscape.

16 gallons/load

Install water-efficient drip irrigation system for trees, shrubs, and flowers to get water to the plant's roots more efficiently.

20–25 gallons/day

Upgrade to a "smart irrigation controller" that automatically adjusts watering times based on weather conditions.\*

40 gallons/day

Replace your lawn and upgrade to WaterSmart landscape.\*

up to 44 gallons/sq. ft. annually depending on climate

**OTHER OUTDOOR IDEAS**

**Water Efficiency Tip**

**Estimated Savings**

Use a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways and sidewalks.

8–18 gallons/minute

Collect warm-up shower water in a bucket and use to water plants.

2.5 gallons/minute

When you give pets fresh water, use old water on your landscape.

2.5 gallons/minute

Adjust your pressure reducer (if you have one) to keep pressure between 40 and 60 p.s.i.

Varies

While washing your car, use a self-closing nozzle for your hose.

8–18 gallons/minute

Use a car wash that recycles water.

15-32 gallons/wash

Fix a leaky meter.

up to 1000s of gallons

Repair any leaks around pool and spa pumps.

20 gallons/day/leak

Repair leaking hose bibs.

15–20 gal./day/leak

Install covers on pool and spas to reduce evaporation.

30 gallons per day

Install pressure reducer if your pressure is greater than 80 p.s.i.

Varies

\*Rebates may be available. Visit **WaterSmartSD.org** for information.

**WHEN IN DROUGHT**

Save every day, every way.



Water efficiency tips, rebates, tools and inspirational case studies for business and residents available at [WaterSmartSD.org](http://WaterSmartSD.org).



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