

Easy Ways to Save Water

California Department of Water Resources

Conserve Water Every Day

California's geography makes it challenging to meet all our water needs. Rain and snow fall mostly in remote places, while most of the population lives in drier locations.

Water distribution systems like the State Water Project exist to bring water to people where they need it most.

Your efforts at conserving water help assure that all Californians will get the water they need.

Flex Your Power

By conserving energy, you can help prevent water shortages.

Blackouts could lead to sewage and storm water discharge systems failing if pumps lose power.

Major water pipeline breaks could also result.



Inside Home

Since water is a limited resource and it is essential to each of us every day, water conservation is important. By following these water conservation tips in the home, you can help conserve water, every day whether or not there's a drought:



LAUNDRY ROOM

- Use washing machine for full loads only.
- Purchase high-efficiency clothes washer. (You can save 20 gallons per load.)



KITCHEN

- Wash vegetables in container, not under running water.
- Use dishwasher for full loads only.
- Cool drinking water in refrigerator.
- Install aerators on the kitchen faucet.



BATHROOM

- Install low-flow shower heads. (Showers kept under 5-minutes can save you about 1.5 gallons per shower.)
- Take shorter showers. (You can save 10-15 gallons per bath.)
- Install an efficient Ultra Low Flow 1.6 gallons-per-flush toilet. (Most homes built after 1980 already have these features.)
- Turn water off when brushing teeth and soaping hands.
- Fill basin when shaving.
- Don't use toilet as wastebasket.

Easy Ways to Save Water

Outside Home



LANDSCAPE

- Irrigate your yard in the morning or evening when temperatures are cooler.
- Check your sprinkler system frequently and adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk, or street.
- Choose water-efficient irrigation system for your trees, shrubs, and flowers.
- Water deeply but less frequently to create healthier and stronger landscapes.
- Put layer of mulch around trees and plants.
- Plant drought-resistant trees and plants.

CLEANUP

- Use broom to clean driveways, sidewalks, patios, and walkways.
- Wash cars/boats with a bucket, sponge, and hose with self-closing nozzle.



ACTIVITIES

- Teach children that your hose and sprinkler are not toys.
- Install a pool/spa cover to reduce evaporation and filter backwash.
- If draining a pool is necessary, find a use for the water.
- Check your pool and pool plumbing for leaks.



Tips on Leaks

Lots of water can be lost by little leaks. A small drip can waste 70 gallons of water in a day and more than 1,000 gallons a day can pour through a steady leak of one-sixteenth inch in size. Fix leaky faucets and toilets right away. When hot water is dripping, energy is also being wasted. Since a leak can be a major water waster, always fix any leak as soon as possible.



Pipe Leaks

To detect unseen leaks, read your water meter. Don't run any water for one hour, then read your water meter again. If the meter has moved, you may have a leak.

Faucet Leaks



Most leaks, besides toilet leaks, are in the faucets, and most are mainly due to worn washers. Check your tap a couple of times a year to see if all the faucets are working properly.

Toilet Leaks

Put food coloring in your toilet tank and wait for 20-minutes. If it seeps into the toilet bowl, you have a leak. Many toilet leaks can be fixed with simple tools and a do-it-yourself manual.

The State Water Contractors in cooperation with the California Department of Water Resources funded this brochure.

GRAY DAVIS
Governor
State of California

MARY D. NICHOLS
Secretary for Resources
The Resources Agency

THOMAS M. HANNIGAN
Director
Department of Water Resources



September 2001

Learn more about California's water supply and water conservation efforts.

Easy Ways
to Save
Water

For more information about the State Water Project and accessibility, or to obtain this publication in an alternate form call the Department of Water Resources' Office of Water Education at 1-800-272-8869.

Visit DWR's Web site at <http://www.dwr.water.ca.gov/>

For TTY phone service, call (916) 653-6226.

