



Save Water Right at Home

In California, water is a limited resource. Add to this a growing population and it's clear we need to work together to stretch our existing water supplies. You can help by conserving water inside and outside your home. And don't forget, saving water saves energy and money, and it's easy to do!

Indoor water saving tips

- Only run full loads in the washing machine. If you are purchasing a new washer sometime soon, purchase a water and energy saving model.
- Don't let the water run while you're washing dishes or brushing your teeth.
- Use water-saving shower heads and take shorter showers.
- Only run full loads in the dishwasher.
- Fix leaky faucets and toilets — if the toilet flapped valve leaks, it's an easy problem to fix and stops enormous waste of water.

Outdoor water saving tips

- Use drip irrigation for your flowers, trees and garden.
- Stop watering before water starts to flow from your yard to the gutter.
- Know how to use your automatic sprinkler system, and set your time to local watering hours.
- Turn it off during rainy seasons and don't let sprinklers run if it's raining. Water your yard in the early morning or late evening to minimize evaporation and don't use the sprinklers on windy days.
- Maintain your sprinkler systems and fix leaking pipes.
- Make sure your sprinklers are directed toward watering the yard, not the sidewalk or driveway.
- Consider replacing part of your lawn with a deck, patio or low water-use plants. Grass is one of the highest users of water in outdoor landscaping.
- Instead of a hose, use a broom to clean driveways and walkways.
- Use a shutoff nozzle on your hose.
- Cover pools and spas to reduce evaporation.

By following these easy tips, an average California family can help save this much water:

- Landscaping with plants and flowers that need a little water can use 50 percent less water
- Only watering the lawn when it needs it saves about 1500 gallons a month
- Covering the pool saves about 1000 gallons a month
- Cleaning the driveway and sidewalk with a broom instead of a hose saves about 150 gallons each time
- Running full loads in the washing machine and dishwasher saves about 800 gallons a month
- Taking five minute showers while using a low-flow shower head can save about 600 gallons of water a month
- Fixing leaky faucets and pipes saves about 140 gallons a month