



We are in a serious drought emergency: please reduce outdoor water use by half.

In our area, irrigation accounts for 56% of all water consumed at a typical single-family home. Listed below are the best ways to conserve water outdoors.

OUTDOORS

You might not have thought of these other ways to save water...

- Adjust your lawn mower to a higher setting. A taller lawn shades roots and holds soil moisture.
- Aerate lawns at least once a year so water can reach the roots rather than run off the surface.
- Use sprinklers that deliver big drops of water close to the ground. Smaller water drops and mist often evaporate before they reach the soil.
- Plant in the fall when conditions are cooler and rainfall is more plentiful.
- Choose shrubs and ground covers instead of turf for hard-to-water areas such as steep slopes and isolated strips.
- Set a kitchen timer when watering your lawn or garden to remind you when to stop. A running hose discharges up to 10 gallons a minute.

Do this...	And save...
Follow restrictions on outdoor watering. Eliminating irrigation saves the most water.	15-25 gallons per minute.
Convert your lawn to a drought-tolerant garden. Cover it with sheet mulch now but wait until fall to add new plants. Learn how at www.loseyourlawn.org .	33-60 gallons per day per 1,000 sq. ft.
Apply at least two inches of organic mulch around plants to retain soil moisture.	20-30 gallons per day per 1,000 sq. ft.
Install and use a pool cover to reduce evaporation.	30 gallons per day
Use drip irrigation as allowed. Ask your nursery which shrubs and trees do best on a drip system.	20-25 gallons per day
When watering is allowed, use short cycles and run sprinklers before 8 AM to minimize runoff and evaporation.	20-25 gallons per day
Fix leaks in pool and spa equipment.	20 gallons per day per leak
Check and adjust sprinklers frequently to make sure you're watering plants, not pavement. Visit saveourh2o.org/sprinklers101 for sprinkler how-to's.	15-25 gallons per day
Fix broken sprinklers and leaky valves and hose bibs.	15-20 gallons per day per leak
Sweep with a broom, not a hose.	8-18 gallons per minute
Choose a car wash that cleans and recycles its wash water. Wash vehicles less often.	Up to 100 gallons every time

BEST WAYS to Save Water



You might not have thought of these other ways to save water...

In the Kitchen

- Don't use running water to thaw food. Defrost food in the refrigerator.
- Use the garbage disposal sparingly. Compost vegetable food waste instead and save gallons every time.
- Install an instant water heater near your kitchen sink so you don't have to run the water while it heats up. This also reduces energy costs.

In the Bathroom

- Reuse your towels for several days, at home and in hotels.
- Keep a bucket in the shower to catch water as it warms up. Use this water to flush toilets or water plants.
- When running a bath, plug the tub before turning on the water on, then adjust the temperature as the tub fills. Fill half full or less.

How many gallons are you using? How low can you go?

Your bill shows the "units" of water your home used in two months. Each unit equals 748 gallons. To go lower, first cut outdoor use in half. Then use the checklist below to boost efficiency indoors. Visit www.dsrds.com for more tips and information on rebates and free water-saving devices.

INDOORS

Do this...	And save...
Fix a toilet that runs constantly. Check for leaks by adding a drop of food coloring to the tank. Wait 10 minutes. If color shows up in the bowl, you have a leak. Replace the rubber flapper.	30-50 gallons per day for a slow leak; if the flapper is stuck open, you're wasting 1000 gallons daily.
Get a rebate for replacing an old toilet with a high-efficiency model.	2.2-3.8 gallons per flush
Wash only full loads of laundry.	10-40 gallons per load
Get a rebate for installing a new high-efficiency clothes washer.	20-30 gallons per load
Fix a dripping faucet.	15-20 gallons per day per leak
Replace a guzzling shower head with an efficient model.	4 gallons per minute
Take shorter showers.	2-6 gallons per minute
Don't leave water running when you rinse dishes. Or scrape, don't rinse.	2.5 gallons per minute
Turn off the water while you shave, brush your teeth, or wash hands.	2.5 gallons per minute
Run the dishwasher only when full.	4-6 gallons per load
Never use the toilet as a trash can.	1.6 gallons per flush
Install aerators on indoor faucets.	1-2 gallons per minute per faucet



Dublin San Ramon Services District

Water, wastewater, recycled water

www.dsrds.com