

USE WATER
WISELY

Water Savings Tip Sheet

Outdoor Landscaping

- Water your lawn only when it needs it and adjust your sprinklers so that water lands on the lawn and not on the sidewalk. This will save up to 1,700 gallons per month.
- Stop water runoff by allowing water to infiltrate. Change your watering. Instead of watering for 15 minutes, water for five to eight minutes, wait 30 to 45 minutes and water again for five to eight minutes.
- Tune up your sprinklers on a monthly basis. Gardeners, water pressure, and garden pests can misalign and break sprinklers causing major water waste.
- Do not water on windy days. A heavy rain means you don't have to water at all. Teach the family how to turn off an automatic sprinkler system in case a storm comes up during the sprinkling cycle.
- Change your irrigation times seasonally or better yet, monthly.
- Choose climate-appropriate plants.
- Put a layer of mulch around trees and plants to reduce evaporation and keep the soil cool. Organic mulch also improves the soil and prevents weeds. Save: 20-30 gallons/each time you water/1,000 sq. ft.

Outdoor Cleaning

- Clean sidewalks and driveways with broom rather than hose and save 8-18 gallons per minute.
- Use pool and spa covers.
- Repair leaks around hose bibs, spigots, pools and spa pumps.
- Clean pool filter manually rather than backwash.
- Take cars to a water-efficient car wash OR wash cars/boats with a bucket, sponge and hose with a self-closing nozzle. This will save you 8-18 gallons per minute.



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Indoor Living

- Fix leaky faucets and plumbing fixtures. This will save you 20 gallons a day for every leak fixed.
- Turn off the water when you brush your teeth. This will save you three gallons per day.
- Install aerators on the kitchen faucet to reduce flows to less than 1 gallon per minute.
- Install water saving shower-heads and shorten your showers. Even if you shorten your showers by only one to two minutes, you can still save up to 1,500 gallons per month.
- Retrofit all household faucets by installing aerators with flow restrictors to slow the flow of water.
- Don't use the toilet as a wastebasket.
- Check for toilet tank leaks by adding food coloring to the tank. If the toilet is leaking, color will appear in the toilet bowl within 30 minutes.
- Don't let water run while shaving or washing your face. Brush your teeth first while waiting for water to get hot, then wash or shave after filling the basin.
- Place a bucket in the shower to hold water when shower water is warming up and then reuse the water in your garden.
- When washing dishes by hand, fill one sink or basin with soapy water. Quickly rinse under a slow-moving stream from the faucet.
- Do not use running water to thaw meat or other frozen foods. Defrost food overnight in the refrigerator or use the defrost setting on your microwave.

Available Websites:

- www.bewaterwise.com
 - www.ieua.org
- www.iegardenfriendly.com
- <http://www.saveourh2o.org/>

Rebates:

- IEUA.org
- Socalwatersmart.com
- Local Water Retail agencies
- FreesprinklerNozzles.com



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