

#9 CONSERVATION TIPS

A 1/8 inch hole in a metal pipe, at 40 psi, leaks 2,500 gallons of water in 24 hours.

A leak the size of a pinhead can waste 360,000 gallons per year, enough to fill 12,000 bathtubs to the overflow mark.

A leaking toilet can use 90,000 gallons of water in 30 days.

A dripping faucet/hose bib can lose up to 180 gallons a month or 2,160 gallons per year.

Approximately 1 in every 20 pools has a leak.

Approximately 1 in every 318 homes or buildings has a leak.

A typical toilet leak at today's rate can add \$500 to a single water bill.

One trip through a car wash uses 150 gallons of drinking water.

Collecting water for gardening from the faucet while waiting for hot water saves about 250 gallons of water a month.

Using a broom to clean the sidewalk instead of a hose saves 150 gallons of water.

Using a pool cover prevents about 1,000 gallons per month from evaporating.



General Watering

Things we can do to adapt outside water use to the natural cyclical dry conditions as well as save money:

- Consider native and drought-tolerant plants and grasses when making landscape choices and adjust your watering to take advantage of the less-thirsty plants.
- Get your irrigation system tuned up for efficiency. When was the last time you actually watched all the sprinklers in action? Are you sure there aren't any geysers coming out of your front yard?
- Adjust your sprinklers so there is less watering on cool and overcast days and don't water when it's raining.
- Water your lawn when it needs it. Step on your grass. If it springs back when you lift your foot, it doesn't need water. Reduce the number of days your automatic sprinklers run during the cooler months between October and April.
- Consider reusing some household water to irrigate your landscaping by using a graywater system or by using a bucket.
- Water your lawn during the cool times of the day and preferably on less windy days. Early morning is better than dusk. Less watering means less prolific growth, therefore less mowing and fertilizer is needed.
- Set lawn mower blades one notch higher. Longer grass means less evaporation.
- Adjust your automatic sprinklers so that water lands only on your lawn or garden where it belongs and not on the sidewalk or street.
- If you have a pool or spa, use an insulated cover to cut down on evaporation. It also will keep your pool or spa cleaner and reduce the need to add chemicals.
- If you have an evaporative air conditioner, direct the water drain line to a flowerbed, tree base or lawn.
- Put a layer of mulch around trees and plants. Chunks of bark, peat moss or gravel slow evaporation.
- As much as 30 percent of water can be lost to evaporation by watering the lawn during midday. It's more efficient to water before 8 a.m. or after 6 p.m., and to avoid watering on windy days.

FAQs:

Frequently Asked Questions

JOSHUA BASIN WATER DISTRICT

- Water in several short sessions rather than one long one. Three ten-minute sessions spaced 30 minutes to an hour apart, for example, will allow your lawn to better absorb moisture than one straight 30-minute session.
- Don't water unless your lawn needs it. Over-watering promotes shallow root growth and makes your lawn less hardy. To determine if your lawn needs watering, walk across the grass. If you leave footprints, it's time to water.
- You can also install moisture sensors in your lawn's sunny and shady areas to pinpoint if you need to water.



Sprinkler systems

- Homes with in-ground sprinkler systems use 35 percent more water outdoors than homes without in-ground systems. One reason may be that system controllers are not adjusted to meet irrigation needs as the seasons change.
- Adjust the timer on automatic sprinklers according to seasonal water demands and weather conditions. Install a rain shut-off device on automatic sprinklers so you're not watering when the ground is already wet.
- Check sprinkler system valves periodically for leaks. Keep the heads in good repair.
- Avoid sprinklers that spray a fine mist, which increases evaporation.
- Make sure your sprinkler is placed so it only waters the lawn, not the pavement.

Drip Irrigation

- Install a drip irrigation system for watering gardens, trees and shrubs. Drip irrigation provides a slow, steady trickle of water to plants at their roots through a network of pipes and hoses. The systems are regulated by a controller that can be adjusted for different levels of watering according to the needs of the plants. Drip irrigation systems reduce over-watering, inefficient watering, weed growth, and the time and labor involved in hand watering.

Pools and Spas

- Consider installing a pool cover to save energy and money. As much as 70 percent of a pool's heat loss is caused by evaporation.
- You can save substantially by reducing your pool's water temperature and the number of months you heat your pool.
- Keep your pool's cleaning and heating equipment clean and lubricated to make it as efficient as possible.
- Switch your pool filter and sweeper operations to off-peak hours - hours other than hot summer afternoons, when electricity use is high and prices increase. If you have a time-of-use meter, this can save you money. Off-peak hours are between 6 p.m. and noon weekdays and all day Saturday and Sunday.
- Shorten the operating time for your swimming pool filter and- if your pool has one - your automatic cleaning sweep. In the winter, two hours a day of filtering could cut your filter's energy use by 40 percent to 50 percent, yet keep your pool clean.

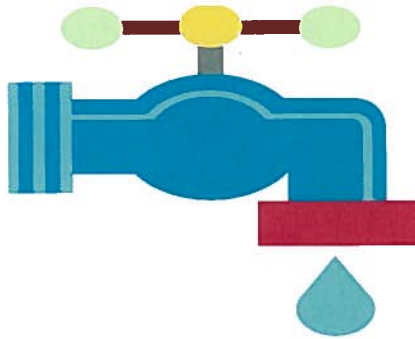
Household Measures

FAQs:

Frequently Asked Questions

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- Check your water meter to see if there are any leaks. If it's spinning and there's no water being used, there is probably an undetected leak somewhere.
- The next time a plumber visits have them check your household water pressure. If it is over 80 psi, have a pressure regulator installed outside.
- While waiting for the shower to warm up, catch the cold water in a container to use on outside plants.
- Turn off the water while brushing your teeth or while shaving.
- When washing dishes by hand, use the least amount of detergent possible. If you have two sinks, fill one with rinse water.
- If you only have one sink, use a spray device or short blasts instead of letting the water run.
- Keep a bottle of drinking water in the refrigerator to avoid running the faucet to cool the water.
- Defrost frozen foods without running water. Either plan ahead by placing frozen items in the refrigerator overnight or defrost them in the microwave.
- Clean vegetables by rinsing them in a filled sink or pan.
- Use the garbage disposal less and garbage can more.
- Run only full loads in the washing machine and dishwasher. If you only have a few dishes, it's better to wash them in the sink.



Additional Water Saving Tips

- Change your old toilet with a new water-efficient model. Since 1994, that's the only kind you can buy in California.
- Select a high-efficiency clothes washer when replacing your old machine.
- Check to see if your toilets are leaking. Put some food coloring in the tank and see if it enters the bowl without flushing. If it does, try replacing the flapper.
- Install a new water-efficient showerhead. It saves on hot water energy costs and stretches the availability of hot water for others.
- Fix leaky faucets and plumbing joints inside and outside of your home.
- Use a bucket while washing your car then give it a rinse with a hose fitted with a spray nozzle. Try washing your car on the front lawn.
- If your automatic water softener recharges using a time clock, be sure it isn't recharging too frequently and remember to turn it off when you go away for a few days.
- Consider installing a point-of-use hot water dispenser. It uses less energy and water and there's less waiting for hot water to arrive.
- When taking your car to a car wash, be sure it's one that recycles its wash water.
- At a restaurant, turn your water glass upside down if you don't want water. This saves the water you don't drink and the water used to wash the glass.
- Look at how water is used at your work and consider suggesting some of these same ideas to management. They'll save water and sewer charges and improve their bottomline.