San Diego County Water Authority

Live WaterSmart!

Water Efficiency is a Way of Life in San Diego County

DIVERSIFICATION

Enhancing Water Supply Reliability

San Diego County has been a leader in water conservation efforts for years, and per capita potable water use has decreased by more than 30 percent between 2007 and 2015. Five years of drought have underscored the need to make the most of every drop and help maintain our region's water supplies in case drought conditions continue.

Thankfully, saving water is easier than you might think. A few simple changes can make a big difference – especially outdoors.

More than half of residential water use is for landscape irrigation.

To learn more about what you can do, go to **WaterSmartSD.org**.

INDOOR TIPS FOR RESIDENTS

TIP LEGEND: No cost - Easy to do | Low cost - More effort required | Higher cost - Most effort required

Water Efficiency Tip	Estimated Savings
Avoid using running water to thaw frozen foods.	2.5 gallons/minute
Scrape dirty dishes instead of rinsing them before washing.	2.5 gallons/minute
Wash fruits and vegetables in a bowl of water instead of in running water.	2.5 gallons/minute
Keep drinking water in your refrigerator to avoid wasteful running of tap water to cool it off.	2.5 gallons/minute
Run the dishwasher only when full.	2–4.5 gallons/load
Don't leave water running when rinsing dishes.	2.5 gallons/minute
Turn off water when brushing teeth.	2 gallons/minute
Shorten showers.	2.5 gallons/minute
Don't use the toilet as a wastebasket.	1.6 gallons/flush
Wash only full loads of clothes.	15–50 gallons/load
Fix leaky toilets.	30–50 gallons/day/toilet
Fix leaky faucets.	15–20 gallons/day/leak
Install aerators with flow restrictors on kitchen/bathroom faucets.	4.7 gallons/day
Install an instant hot water recirculating system or device.	2.5 gallons/minute
Replace older, inefficient clothes washers.*	20–30 gallons/load
Upgrade to high-efficiency toilets.*	0.3–3.8 gallons/flush
Install a water-efficient dishwasher.	4.25 gallons/cycle

For a handy calculator that takes individualized input by homeowners and shows which of their water uses are efficient and which are not, go to **WaterSmartSD.org/water-calculator.**

*Rebates may be available. Visit **WaterSmartSD.org** for information.

Would you like a professional evaluation of potential water-saving measures for your home? Request a FREE WaterSmart checkup at **WaterSmartSD.org/programs/residential-watersmart-checkup.**

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The San Diego County Water Authority sustains a $222 billion regional economy and the quality of life for 3.3 million residents through a multi-decade water supply diversification plan, major infrastructure investments and forward-thinking policies that promote fiscal and environmental responsibility. A public agency created in 1944, the Water Authority delivers wholesale water supplies to 24 retail water providers, including cities, special districts and a military base.

OUTDOOR TIPS FOR RESIDENTS

TIP LEGEND: No cost - Easy to do | Low cost - More effort required | Higher cost - Most effort required

LANDSCAPE IRRIGATION

Water Efficiency Tip	Estimated Savings
Water only in the late evening or early morning hours to reduce evaporation and interference from wind.	20–25 gallons/day
Don't overwater! • Turn off irrigation systems before rainstorms and leave them off for as long as possible after. Water only after the top 1 inch of soil is dry. • Program your irrigation controller to run based on local water agency rules. For information about local rules go to **sdcwa.org/find-your-water-district.**	15–25 gallons/minute; up to 250 gallons/cycle
Adjust sprinklers to prevent overspray and runoff.	15–25 gallons/day
Repair leaks and broken sprinkler nozzles.*	10 gallons/minute/leak
Add 2" to 3" of mulch around trees & plants to reduce evaporation.	20–30 gal./day/1,000 sq. ft.
Install rain barrels.*	varies
Install a graywater system to help irrigate your landscape.	16 gallons/load
Install water-efficient drip irrigation system for trees, shrubs, and flowers to get water to plant roots more efficiently.	20–25 gallons/day
Upgrade to a "smart irrigation controller" that automatically adjusts watering times based on weather conditions.*	40 gallons/day
Replace your lawn and upgrade to WaterSmart landscape.*	up to 44 gallons/sq. ft. annually depending on climate

OTHER OUTDOOR IDEAS

Water Efficiency Tip	Estimated Savings
Use a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways and sidewalks.	8–18 gallons/minute
Collect warm-up shower water in a bucket and use to water plants.	2.5 gallons/minute
When you give pets fresh water, use old water on your landscape.	2.5 gallons/minute
Adjust your pressure reducer (if you have one) to keep pressure between 40 and 60 p.s.i.	Varies
While washing your car, use a self-closing nozzle for your hose.	8–18 gallons/minute
Patronize car washes that recycle water.	15-32 gallons/wash
Fix leaky meters.	up to 1000s of gallons
Repair any leaks around pool and spa pumps.	20 gallons/day/leak
Repair leaking hose bibs.	15–20 gal./day/leak
Install covers on pools and spas to reduce evaporation.	30 gallons per day
Install a pressure reducer if your pressure is greater than 80 p.s.i.	Varies

*Rebates may be available. Visit **WaterSmartSD.org** for information.

water smart
SAN DIEGO COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

*Water efficiency tips, rebates, tools and case studies for business and residents are available at **WaterSmartSD.org.***

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