



San Diego County  
Water Authority

# Every Drop Counts!

Water Efficiency is More Important Than Ever



## DIVERSIFICATION

Enhancing Water  
Supply Reliability



San Diego County's semi-arid climate means that truly wet years are few and

far between, and dry years are very common. On average, the region receives about ten inches of rain per year.

Our mild, Mediterranean climate is a big part of our region's appeal, allowing us to enjoy a casual, outdoor lifestyle year-round. But it also means we share a responsibility to be smart about how we use our limited water resources – *WaterSmart*.

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



An example of a Mediterranean style garden with low to moderate water use.

Keep in mind that more than 50 percent of residential water use in the San Diego region is spent on landscape irrigation and other outside purposes, so make sure you think inside AND outside to maximize water savings.

For ideas on how to save water in and around your home, look at the tips on this flier, go to [watersmartsd.org](http://watersmartsd.org) or contact your local water supplier for specific rebates that may apply in your community.

## 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

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
Replace older, inefficient clothes washers*	20–30 gallons/load
Replace older, high-volume flushing toilets	2.2–3.8 gallons/flush

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](http://watersmartsd.org/water-calculator)

\*Rebates may be available. Visit [watersmartsd.org/programs](http://watersmartsd.org/programs) or [socialwatersmart.com](http://socialwatersmart.com) 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](http://watersmartsd.org/programs/residential-watersmart-checkup)

**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**

Water only in the late evening or early morning hours to reduce evaporation and interference from wind.

Don't overwater!

- Program your irrigation controller to run 10 minutes per day, 3 days a week during summer months and 2 days per week during the rest of the year. Monitor the performance of your landscape and adjust the run times up or down accordingly. Check local water ordinances for your community.
- Use online resources like the landscape calculator at **apps.sandiego.gov/landcalc** and the watering index at **bewaterwise.com**.
- Eliminate runoff or wasted water. Shorter or multiple run times can reduce runoff on slopes by allowing water to soak into the soil. Water only after the top 1 inch of soil is dry.

**Estimated Savings**

20–25 gallons/day

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 gallons/day/ 1,000 sq. ft.
Install water-efficient drip irrigation system for trees, shrubs, and flowers to get water to the plant's 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.*	33–60 gallons/day/ 1,000 sq. ft. depending on climate

**OTHER OUTDOOR IDEAS**

**Water Efficiency Tip**

Use a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways and sidewalks.

**Estimated Savings**

8–18 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

Repair any leaks around pool and spa pumps.

20 gallons/day/leak

Repair leaking hose bibs.

15–20 gal./day/leak

Install covers on pool and spas to reduce evaporation.

30 gallons per day

Install pressure reducer if your pressure is greater than 80 p.s.i.

Varies

\*Rebates may be available. Visit **watersmartsd.org/programs** or **socalwatersmart.com** for information.

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION VISIT**  
**watersmartsd.org** or **h2ouse.org**

A Homeowner's  
Guide to a  
WaterSmart  
Landscape



Download a free PDF copy of "A Homeowner's Guide to a WaterSmart Landscape" at [sdcwa.org/landscape-guide](http://sdcwa.org/landscape-guide).



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4677 Overland Ave.  
San Diego, California  
92123-1233  
858.522.6700

**www.sdcwa.org**



@sdcwa



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