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 whenindrought.org.

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**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](http://WaterSmartSD.org/water-calculator).

*Rebates may be available. Visit [WaterSmartSD.org](http://WaterSmartSD.org) for information.
### 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!
- 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 restrictions. For information about local restrictions, go to WhenInDrought.org.

**Estimated Savings**
- 20–25 gallons/day

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tip Description</th>
<th>Estimated Savings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adjust sprinklers to prevent overspray and runoff.</td>
<td>15–25 gallons/day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repair leaks and broken sprinkler nozzles.*</td>
<td>10 gallons/minute/leak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Add 2” to 3” of mulch around trees &amp; plants to reduce evaporation.</td>
<td>20–30 gal./day/1,000 sq. ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Install rain barrels.*</td>
<td>varies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Install a graywater system to irrigate your landscape.</td>
<td>16 gallons/load</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Install water-efficient drip irrigation system for trees, shrubs,</td>
<td>20–25 gallons/day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and flowers to get water to plant roots more efficiently.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upgrade to a “smart irrigation controller” that automatically adjusts</td>
<td>40 gallons/day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>watering times based on weather conditions.*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Replace your lawn and upgrade to WaterSmart landscape.*</td>
<td>up to 44 gallons/sq. ft. annually depending on climate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### OTHER OUTDOOR IDEAS

**Water Efficiency Tip**
Use a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways and sidewalks.

**Estimated Savings**
- 8–18 gallons/minute

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

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

For additional information, go to WaterSmartSD.org.