

San Diego County has been a leader in water conservation efforts for decades, and per capita potable water use has decreased significantly as residents and businesses continue to adopt WaterSmart practices. Drought conditions from 2012-2016 underscored the need to make the most of every drop and help maintain our region's water supplies for future dry years. 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 including FREE classes and videos, go to [WaterSmartSD.org](http://WaterSmartSD.org). The website also includes a handy calculator that takes individualized input by homeowners and shows which of their water uses are efficient and which are not.

### INDOOR TIPS FOR RESIDENTS

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.	5–50 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

\*Rebates may be available. Go to [WaterSmartSD.org](http://WaterSmartSD.org) for information.

## OUTDOOR TIPS FOR RESIDENTS

### 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!	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>Program your irrigation controller to run based on local water agency rules. For information about local rules go to <a href="http://sdcwa.org/find-your-water-district">sdcwa.org/find-your-water-district</a>.</li> </ul>	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 3" of mulch around trees & plants to reduce evaporation.	10–30 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 “weather-based 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)

### 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. Go to [WaterSmartSD.org](http://WaterSmartSD.org) for information.