


Every Drop Counts!

WATER CONSERVATION IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER

FACT SHEET



**The 20-Gallon
challenge**
Save Water Now

Conservation has been a way of life in San Diego County for many years, but it's especially important now that mandatory water use restrictions are in effect. Historic dry conditions in California, coupled with regulatory restrictions to our water deliveries from the State Water Project (which provides about 30 percent of San Diego County's water) have created a water shortage and make it essential for residents and businesses to increase conservation immediately.

The good news is, you CAN help by taking on the 20-Gallon Challenge! If every person can save 20 gallons of water a day, that will significantly help the region by allowing more water to stay in storage to meet future demands. And saving water is easier than you might think.

A few simple changes can make a big difference.

Keep in mind that more than 50 percent of residential water use in San Diego is spent on

landscape irrigation and other outdoor 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, visit 20gallonchallenge.com, or contact your local water supplier for specific water restrictions that may apply in your community.



Drip irrigation systems can save 20-25 gallons of water a day.

The Water Authority is a public agency serving the San Diego region as a wholesale supplier of water. The Water Authority works through its 24 member agencies to provide a safe, reliable water supply to support the region's \$171 billion economy and the quality of life of 3 million residents.

INDOOR TIPS FOR RESIDENTS

TIP LEGEND

No cost - Easy to do

Low cost - More effort required

Higher cost - Most effort required

Conservation Tip

Estimated Savings

Run the dishwasher only when full	2-4.5 gallons per load
Don't leave water running when rinsing dishes	2.5 gallons per minute
Turn off water when brushing teeth	2 gallons per minute
Shorten showers	2.5 gallons per minute
Don't use the toilet as a wastebasket	1.6 gallons per flush
Wash only full loads of clothes	15-50 gallons per load
Fix leaky toilets	30-50 gallons per day per toilet
Fix leaky faucets	15-20 gallons per day per leak
Install aerators with flow restrictors on kitchen/bathroom faucets	4.7 gallons per day
Replace older, inefficient clothes washers (For information on \$175 Water Authority/SDG&E vouchers call 800-986-4538.)	20-30 gallons per load
Replace older, high-volume flushing toilets	2.2-3.8 gallons per flush

For information on water wasted due to leaks, visit the WaterWiser Drip Calculator at <http://www.awwa.org/advocacy/learn/conserve/dripcalc.cfm>

OUTDOOR TIPS FOR RESIDENTS

TIP LEGEND

No cost - Easy to do

Low cost - More effort required

Higher cost - Most effort required

Landscape Irrigation

Conservation Tip

Estimated Savings

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

20–25 gallons per day

Don't overwater!

15–25 gallons per minute; up to 250 gallons per cycle

1) Reduce each irrigation cycle by 1-3 minutes, or eliminate one irrigation cycle per week. Use the landscape calculator <http://apps.sandiego.gov/landcalc> and watering index at <http://www.bewaterwise.com/>. Also check with your local water agency for specific limits on watering schedules.

2) Water only after the top inch of soil is dry.

3) Reset irrigation controllers and replace batteries in the spring and fall.

Adjust sprinklers to prevent overspray and runoff.

15–25 gallons per day

Repair leaks and broken sprinkler heads.

10 gallons per minute per leak

Add 2" to 3" of mulch around trees & plants to reduce evaporation.

20–30 gallons per day per 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 per day

Upgrade to a "smart irrigation controller" that automatically adjusts watering times for hotter weather, and shuts down the system when it rains.

40 gallons per day

Replace a portion of lawn with beautiful native and California Friendly plants. **NOTE: These plants do best when planted after winter rains begin.** For great examples visit the Water Conservation Garden at www.thegarden.org and check out landscapecontest.com.

33–60 gallons per day per 1,000 sq. ft. depending on climate

Other Outdoor Ideas

Conservation Tip

Estimated Savings

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

8–18 gallons per minute

Adjust your pressure reducer (if you have one) to keep pressure between 40 and 60 p.s.i.

Varies

Don't leave the hose running while washing your car. Get a self-closing nozzle for your hose.

8–18 gallons per minute

Repair any leaks around pool and spa pumps.

20 gallons per day per leak

Repair leaking hose bibs.

15–20 gallons per day per 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

For additional water conservation information visit the following web sites:

www.bewaterwise.com and www.h2ouse.org

For commercial and industrial water conservation tips, resources and programs, visit 20gallonchallenge.com



San Diego County
Water Authority

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