

Conservation Actions for Residential Customers

Ongoing Water Efficiency Practices vs. Drought Conservation Measures

Indoors:

Ongoing:

- ◆ Repair leaking faucets and running toilets
- ◆ Do not use toilet as a wastebasket
- ◆ Install low-flow showerheads and put aerators on sink faucets
- ◆ Turn off the tap while brushing teeth, shaving, preparing food, etc.
- ◆ Wash only full loads in the washing machine or dishwasher
- ◆ Replace older, high water-using toilets with newer, ultra low-consumption models (1.6 gallons per flush)
- ◆ Use low-sudsing detergents to minimize amount of rinsing water needed
- ◆ Insulate water heaters and hot water pipes to reduce wasted water while waiting for hot water
- ◆ When washing dishes by hand, fill a rinse water pan instead of allowing water to run
- ◆ Adjust all water-using appliances to use the minimum amount of water/energy necessary
- ◆ Keep a bottle of drinking water in the refrigerator; this saves running the tap to get cooler water
- ◆ Sweep driveways and sidewalks instead of watering them down to clean them
- ◆ Purchase high efficiency washing machine (Approx. 15 gallons per load)

◆ **Drought Measures:**

- ◆ Take shorter showers or shallower baths
- ◆ Use garbage disposal sparingly
- ◆ Collect water with a bucket while waiting for the shower water to heat up and use it later for watering indoor plants
- ◆ Flush toilets only when needed
- ◆ Comply with water district's drought measures as they are enacted

Outdoors:

Ongoing:

- ◆ Position sprinklers carefully to avoid watering adjacent paved areas
- ◆ Water in the evening or early in the day when evaporation rates are lower and wind is minimal
- ◆ Follow landscape irrigation guidelines to water plants only when necessary
- ◆ Don't mow lawns too short; taller grass retains moisture better
- ◆ Surround plants with mulch or rocks to retain soil moisture
- ◆ Install a shut-off valve on hoses to save water while watering plants or washing the car; wash vehicles less frequently
- ◆ Direct downspouts or gutters toward shrubbery or trees
- ◆ Use drought-tolerant and native vegetation in outdoor landscaping
- ◆ Use a broom, not a hose, to clean driveways, steps and sidewalks.
- ◆ Install ET (evapotranspiration) controllers to assure that you only give plants the water they need.
- ◆ Use a pool cover to minimize evaporation.

Drought Measures:

- ◆ Collect rainwater in a large bucket to use in outside areas
- ◆ Don't irrigate replaceable landscape plantings
- ◆ Do not wash vehicles
- ◆ Comply with water district's drought measures as they are enacted