Save Water Every Day

California is facing severe water challenges. Water supplies for many cities, farms and businesses are being significantly reduced due to dry conditions, restrictions to protect fish species, and growing pressure on the state's water storage and delivery system. Climate change is compounding the problem.

With water shortages a reality in many parts of the state, your efforts to save water can make a difference. Rethinking the way you use water – both indoors and outdoors – will help stretch our limited supplies and ensure water is there when we need it.

"When I brush my teeth, I turn the water off."

Save 8 gallons a day

Contact your local water agency or visit
www.saveourH2O.org for tips
on saving water and rebates on water-efficient appliances in your area.

The Save Our Water program is jointly sponsored by the Association of California Water Agencies and the California Department of Water Resources.

www.acwa.com **www.water.ca.gov**

Easy Ways to Save Water

Little leaks can add up to a lot of wasted water. A small drip can waste 70 gallons of water in a day, while a steady leak just one-sixteenth of an inch in size can send more than 1,000 gallons a day down the drain. Fix leaky faucets and toilets right away.

Pipe Leaks

To detect unseen leaks:

1. Read your water meter.
2. Turn off all water-using appliances and faucets and wait an hour.
3. Read the meter again. If the meter has moved, you probably have a leak.

Toilet Leaks

To see if you have a leak:

1. Put food coloring in your toilet tank and wait for 20 minutes.
2. If color seeps into the toilet bowl, you have a leak.

Many toilet leaks can be fixed with simple tools and a do-it-yourself manual.

Faucet Leaks

Aside from toilet leaks, faucets are the most common source of leaks. Worn washers are usually the culprit. To see if you have a leak:

1. Listen for running water when plumbing fixtures are closed and water-using appliances are off.
2. Check your taps a couple of times a year to make sure all faucets are working properly.

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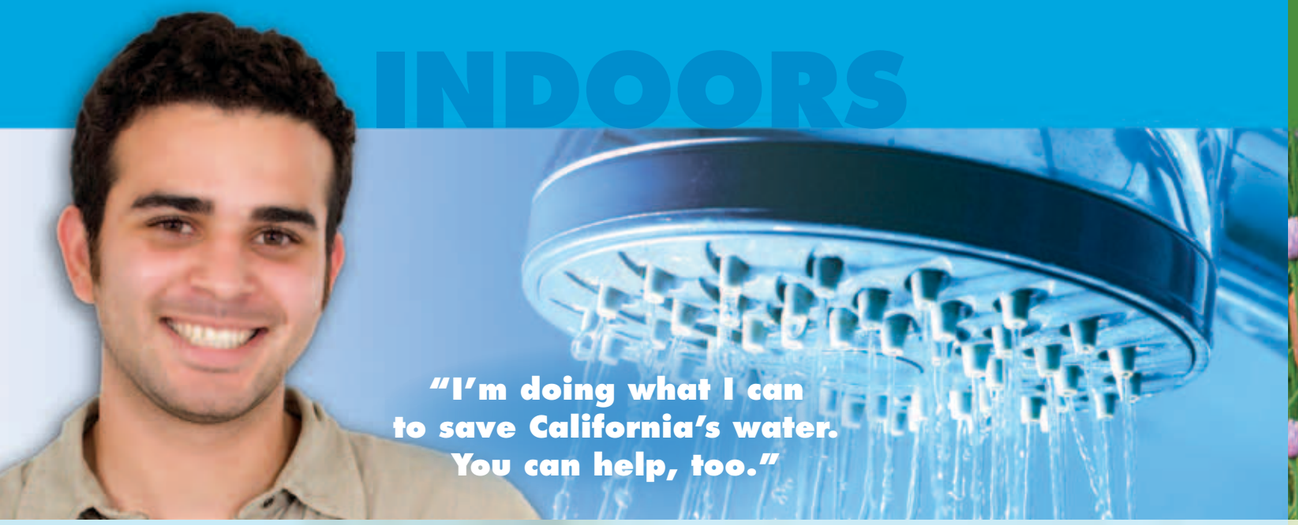
INDOORS



Water is essential to each of us every day. But it's a limited resource, so we all need to rethink the way we use water on a daily basis. By following these water-saving tips inside your home, you can help save water every day, whether or not California is in a drought:

LAUNDRY ROOM

Use the washing machine for full loads only to save water and energy.
Install a water-efficient clothes washer.
✸ **Save: 16 gallons/load**.
(Find out about rebates at www.saveourH2O.org)

KITCHEN

Run the dishwasher only when full to save water and energy. Install a water-and energy-efficient dishwasher.
✸ **Save: 3 to 8 gallons/load**.
(Find out about rebates at www.saveourH2O.org)
Install aerators on the kitchen faucet to reduce flows to less than one gallon per minute.

BATHROOM

Install low-flow shower heads.
✸ **Save: 2.5 gallons/minute**

Take five minute showers instead of 10 minute showers.
✸ **Save: Reducing five minutes will save 2.5 gallons with a low flow showerhead, 25 gallons with a standard 5 gallon per minute showerhead**.

Fill the bathtub halfway or less.
✸ **Save: 12 gallons**

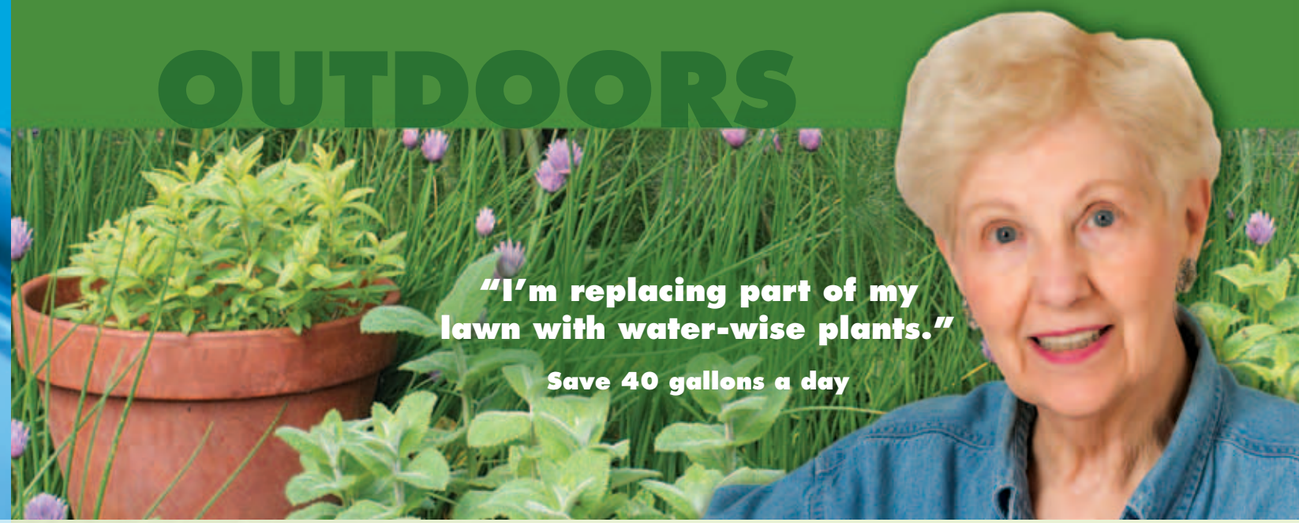
Install a high-efficiency toilet.
✸ **Save: 19 gallons per person/day**
(Find out about rebates at www.saveourH2O.org)

Install aerators on bathroom faucets.
✸ **Save: 1.2 gallons per person/day**

Turn water off when brushing teeth or shaving.
✸ **Save: approximately 8 gallons/day**

Don't use the toilet as wastebasket.
✸ **Save: 1.6 to 5 gallons/flush**

OUTDOORS



LANDSCAPE

Reduce your watering days to once or twice per week. Water your lawn only when it needs it. Water early in the morning or later in the evening when temperatures are cooler.
✸ **Save: 25 gallons/each time you water**

Check your sprinkler system frequently and adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk, or street.
✸ **Save: 12 to 15 gallons/each time you water**

Choose a water-efficient irrigation system such as drip irrigation for your trees, shrubs, and flowers.
✸ **Save: 15 gallons/each time you water**

Put a layer of mulch around trees and plants to reduce evaporation and keep the soil cool. Organic mulch also improves the soil and prevents weeds.
✸ **Save: 20 to 30 gallons/each time you water/1,000 sq. ft.**

Plant drought-resistant trees and plants.
✸ **Save: 30 to 60 gallons/each time you water per 1,000 sq. ft.**

Information about evapotranspiration (ET) and weather based irrigation controllers is available at: www.cuwcc.org and wwwcimis.water.ca.gov

CLEANUP

Use a broom to clean driveways, sidewalks and patios, not your hose.
✸ **Save: 8 to 18 gallons/minute**

Wash cars or boats with a bucket, sponge, and a hose with self-closing nozzle.
✸ **Save: 8 to 18 gallons/minute**

ACTIVITIES

Teach children that the hose and sprinkler are not toys.

Install a pool/spa cover to reduce evaporation and filter backwash.
✸ **Save: 30 gallons/day**

Test pool and spa water frequently and maintain appropriate chemical balances to avoid the need to drain it except for structural repairs. Check your pool and pool plumbing for leaks.

Save Our WATER
saveourH2O.org