

Tips for Saving 10 Gallons+ of Water a Day

Early last summer, a [statewide drought](#) was declared in California - this came after two straight years of below-average rainfall, low snow melt runoff, and the driest spring on record for the Northern California areas that supply most of the state's water. Mandatory water rationing is a real possibility in the near future. The more water you save, the more you benefit our community, our environment, and our future water supply. Here are some tips to save 10 gallons of water a day!

Indoor Use

- Run the dishwasher only when full -- 2 gallons
- Not leave water running while rinsing dishes -- 5 gallons
- Turn off water while brushing teeth (twice daily) -- 8 gallons
- Shorten showers by 2 minutes (once daily) -- 5 gallons
- Fill the bathtub half full while bathing -- 18 gallons
- Not use the toilet as a wastebasket (once daily) -- 1.6 gallons
- Wash only full loads of clothes -- 15 gallons
- Fix a leaky faucet -- 15 gallons
- Fix a leaky toilet -- 30 gallons
- Install aerators with flow restrictors on 3 kitchen/bathroom faucets -- 14 gallons
- Purchase a new, more efficient clothes washer --10 gallons (rebates available)
- Replace old, non-efficient toilet with new low-flush toilet (4 flushes daily) -- 8 gallons (rebates available)

Outdoor Use

- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways and sidewalks (twice weekly) -- 22 gallons
- Water yard before 6 AM or after 8 PM -- 20 gallons
- Reduce overwatering by reducing irrigation cycles by 2 minutes (5 irrigation stations, watering three times weekly) -- 80 gallons
- Reduce overwatering by eliminating one irrigation cycle per week -- 30 gallons
- Adjust sprinklers to reduce overspray onto sidewalks, driveways, etc. -- 30 gallons
- Repair pipe leak or broken sprinkler head (1) -- 20 gallons
- Add mulch (2"-3") around trees and plants (1,000 sq. ft.) -- 25 gallons
- Install water-efficient drip irrigation system -- 20 gallons
- Install a "smart irrigation controller" that adjusts for temperature and precipitation -- 40 gallons
- Not leave hose running while washing my car (10 minutes, once a week) -- 18 gallons
- Replace part of my lawn or water-intensive plants with native or California Friendly plants (1,000 sq. ft) -- 40 gallons
- Repair any leaks around pool or spa pumps -- 20 gallons
- Repair any leaking hose bibs -- 20 gallons
- Install a pool cover to reduce evaporation -- 30 gallons
- Install spa cover to reduce evaporation