

# Every Drop Counts!

WATER CONSERVATION IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER

**FACT SHEET**



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

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 \$150 billion economy and the quality of life of 3 million residents.

Conservation has been a way of life in San Diego County for many years, but it's especially important now. Historic dry conditions in California, coupled with potential legal and regulatory constraints on the State Water Project (which provides 40 percent of San Diego County's water), 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 in your water usage.

Keep in mind that 60 percent of urban 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 [www.sdcwa.org](http://www.sdcwa.org), or contact your local water supplier.



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

## 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 before 6 a.m. and after 8 p.m. 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 out [www.sandiego.gov/water/conservation](http://www.sandiego.gov/water/conservation) to learn how much to water.

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.

20 gallons per day 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](http://www.thegarden.org) and check out [landscapecontest.com](http://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.

20 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.

20 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



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Water Authority

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[www.sdcwa.org](http://www.sdcwa.org)

For additional water conservation information visit the following web sites:  
[www.bewaterwise.com](http://www.bewaterwise.com) and [www.h2ouse.org](http://www.h2ouse.org)

For commercial and industrial water conservation tips, visit [www.sdcwa.org](http://www.sdcwa.org)