



Water Supply Management

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Tips for saving water You can make a difference

Water conservation and efficiency are important to the protection of our drinking water resources. By using water wisely, you can lessen demand on the water supply AND save money on your water bill. Here are some tips for saving water outdoors, when watering, mowing and planting; and indoors in the bathroom, kitchen and around the house.



OUTDOORS Watering

In the summer, lawn watering and other outdoor uses can account for 50 to 80 percent of home water use. Studies show that as much as half of this outdoor use is wasteful.

- Don't overwater your landscape. It can cause yellowing leaves or poor plant health. Give plants only the amount of water that they need.
- Use low-angle sprinklers that produce droplets of water. Sprinklers that spray the water high into the air or produce a mist or fine spray lose much of the water through evaporation.
- Don't water on windy days.
- Set sprinklers to water the lawn, not sidewalks and driveways.
- Use drip irrigation for shrub beds, gardens and trees. Drip irrigation systems apply water directly to the root, where it does the most good, and reduces water loss from evaporation.
- Adjust your watering habits or irrigation system according to the weather and season.
- Check your sprinkler or irrigation systems regularly for any leaks, and fix them.
- Be sure your hose has an automatic shutoff nozzle to ensure water is not wasted when the hose is left unattended.

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Mowing

- Don't cut the grass too short. Longer blades of grass will reduce evaporation and root stress because shaded soil does not dry out as quickly.
- Mow regularly with a sharp blade so that only 1/2 to 3/4 of an inch is cut off each time. This practice will prevent the grass from turning yellow.

WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

Although 80 percent of the earth's surface is covered by water, less than 1 percent is available for drinking.

- **Easy does it!** Water landscapes only when necessary. Most landscapes need only about an inch of water per week, including rainfall.
- **Keep time.** Water landscapes before 10 a.m. or after 7 p.m., avoiding the hottest part of the day when up to 50 percent of water can be lost to evaporation.
- **Find toilet leaks.** To determine if it is leaking look at the toilet bowl after the tank has stopped filling. If water is still running into the bowl or if you can hear water running, the toilet is leaking. However, toilets often have silent leaks. To test for a silent leak mix a few drops of food coloring or place a dye tablet into the water in the toilet tank. DO NOT flush the toilet. Wait about 10 minutes — if the dye or food color appears in the bowl, the toilet has a silent leak.
- **New and improved.** Take advantage of water-efficient technology that saves water without sacrificing quality. Manufacturers have addressed some of the complaints that kept consumers from buying water-efficient technology, such as front-loading clothes washers, dishwashers, ultra low-flush toilets, low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators.

HELPFUL LINKS

- Leave grass clippings on the lawn. Grass clippings contain valuable nutrients for the soil and plants. If left on the lawn, the clippings will reduce the need for additional, expensive fertilizers.

Take this tour to learn ways to save water in each area of your home. This online tool is from the California Urban Water Conservation Council.

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Planting

- Use mulches in flower and shrub beds. Mulches cover and shade soil, minimize evaporation, reduce weed growth, and slow erosion. Mulches also add a decorative appearance to the landscape.
- Add two to four inches of organic material, such as peat or compost, to the soil. Greater soil depth will increase the ability of the soil to retain moisture.
- Use water-wise plants. Native and adaptive plants will use less water and be resistant to local plant diseases and pests.
- Recognize that different plants require different amounts of water. Place your plants according to their water needs. Place plants that need occasional watering in one zone and those that only need natural rainfall in another zone. This way, you will not waste water on plants that don't need it.

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INDOORS

Bathroom

Bathroom use accounts for about 75 percent of the water used inside the home.

- Check regularly for any leaks and fix them. Most common bathroom leaks are found in toilets, faucets, and water hose bibs. Use the the WaterWiser Drip Calculator to estimate the amount of water lost from leaks.
- Replace older, larger-use toilets with the newer ultra-low flush models. Standard toilets manufactured prior to the 1980s usually require five to seven gallons per flush. Toilets sold during the 80s and early 90s use 3.5 gallons per flush. Since 1992, new toilets must use 1.6 gallons or less per flush.
- Install a displacement device, such as a plastic bottle or toilet tank bag or "bank," inside the toilet tank. These devices can save up to 20 percent of the water your toilet uses. (Note: Do NOT use a brick — it can crumble and damage the fixture.)
- Do NOT use the toilet to dispose of paper, facial tissues, or cigarettes.
- Take a five-minute shower, rather than a bath.
- Install a low-flow showerhead. It can save about half the amount of water you typically use in the shower, while still providing a refreshing, cleansing shower.
- Turn the tap water off while brushing your teeth or shaving.

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Kitchen

About 8 percent of in-home water use takes place in the kitchen.

- Install a low-flow faucet aerator, which can cut water use in half.
- Soak pots and pans before washing.

- Fill the basin or a pan with water to wash fruits and vegetables.
- Instead of letting hot water run over frozen foods, let them thaw in the refrigerator, or thaw them in a small amount of boiling water or in the microwave.
- Keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator rather than running tap water until it is cool enough to drink.
- Avoid using the garbage disposal. Instead, compost your food wastes. You can use the compost in your garden to improve your soil, as well as reduce your water use and the need for expensive fertilizers.
- When buying a new dishwasher, consider purchasing a water-saving model. Newer models can cut water use by 25 percent and are no more expensive than non-conserving models.
- Wash only full loads in the dishwasher.

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Around the house

- When buying a new clothes washer, consider purchasing a water-saving model. New horizontal axis models can save up to 40 percent of the water used by a conventional model. The City of Austin provides rebates on the purchase of low-water-use clothes washer to its water utility customers.
- Wash only full loads in the clothes washer.
- Insulate hot water pipes where possible to avoid long delays (and wasted water) while waiting for the water to "run hot."
- Be sure the water heater thermostat is not set too high. Very hot settings (higher than 125 degrees F) waste energy since the water has to be mixed with cold water before use.

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Contact Us

For more information on LCRA's water conservation programs or publications, please call (512) 473-3200, Ext. 2230 or, toll-free, 1-800-776-5272, Ext. 2230, or e-mail [Water Conservation](#).

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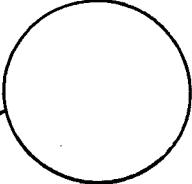
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CONSERVE WATER



ADDRESS _____



CITY _____

DATE _____

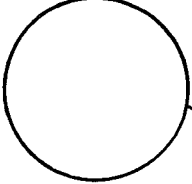
TIME _____

East Bay Municipal Utility District is "listening" to its water mains and service connections with electronic leak detection equipment. As part of this survey, customer house plumbing systems are "listened to" at the meter.

The detectors have picked up the sound of running water on your plumbing system, which could mean that you have leaks in your plumbing. In order to conserve water and to prevent high water bills, please check your house for leaks or running water, using the checklist on the reverse side of this card.

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HOME LEAK DETECTION



Checklist

1. TOILETS – Leaks may be seen or heard.
 - a. Water level high and running into overflow.
 - b. Plunger – ball not seating properly or deteriorated.
 - c. Float valve not operating properly.
2. LEAKY FAUCETS OR VALVES – (inside or outside).
 - a. Washers need replacing.
 - b. Faucet left running.
3. HOT WATER TANK leaking.
4. WET SPOT on lawn or unusual surface water indicates possible leak.
5. SPRINKLER SYSTEM left running.
6. WASHING MACHINE OR DISHWASHER left running.
7. AUTOMATIC SHUTOFF for swimming pool in bad condition.

If you do find leaky plumbing or fixtures, please make necessary repairs or call a plumber right away. For additional information please call the EBMUD Business Office checked below.

<input type="checkbox"/> OAKLAND 250 - 17th. Street 451-5114	<input type="checkbox"/> RICHMOND 1030 Nevin Avenue 232-5051
<input type="checkbox"/> SAN LEANDRO 1595 Washington Avenue 483-3540	<input type="checkbox"/> ALAMO 3189 Danville Boulevard 820-6600

Business Offices closed Saturdays, Sundays & Holidays

Courtesy East Bay Municipal Utility District

Figure 4-4 Doorhanger notifying residential customer of possible plumbing leaks.