

10 WAYS to live WATERSMART!



Our Region's Trusted Water Leader
San Diego County Water Authority

1

Seek (free) professional help.

Request a no-cost home water-use evaluation and receive site-specific water-saving recommendations.



2

Look for trouble.

Use your meter to check for leaks, and monitor water bills to check for changes that may signal a leak or other problems.



3

Load 'em up.

Wash full loads of laundry and dishes to save water, energy and time.



4

Come clean with the car.

Patronize car washes that recycle water. (If washing at home, use a bucket, sponge and self-closing hose nozzle.)



5

Turn off the tap.

Don't let the water run when brushing teeth, shaving and lathering; wash fruit and vegetables in a bowl of water; scrape food waste instead of rinsing.



6

Start making WaterSense®.

Replace older appliances and fixtures with efficient WaterSense® models, and take advantage of incentives to save money.



7

Tame your turf's thirst.

Water only when needed. Test by stepping on your grass. If it springs back when you lift your foot, it doesn't need water. Irrigate in the evening or early morning, and set lawn mower blades to 3 inches to reduce evaporation. (Make sure to comply with local irrigation rules.)



8

Work from the ground up.

Improve your soil's ability to retain moisture by aerating heavy or compacted soil and routinely incorporating compost. Add mulch around trees and plants.



9

Handle with care.

Regularly check your irrigation system for leaks, misting, overspray, runoff and broken sprinkler heads. Repair promptly. Upgrade to water-efficient irrigation systems to ensure plants receive precisely the water they need.



10

Get an upgrade.

When adding or replacing trees, shrubs, groundcovers or flowers, choose less-thirsty varieties. Group plants with similar watering needs together. Incorporate plants such as edibles and shade trees that provide added benefits.



10 more ways TO LIVE WATERSMART!



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1

Find a discount.

Take advantage of rebates on products that help reduce indoor and outdoor water use.



2

Shorten the shower.

Keep showers to 5 minutes or fewer and save 2.5 gallons per minute.



3

Go low.

Install aerators on faucets and low-flow showerheads to instantly save water every time you turn the tap.



4

Deploy the drip.

Irrigate gardens with drip systems that minimize water waste by delivering water right at the roots.



5

Get smart.

Install weather-based irrigation controllers in your landscape to take advantage of the latest smart technology that maximizes water-use efficiency.



6

Monitor the moisture.

Use moisture meters to determine when and how much water plants need.



7

Embrace the broom.

Use a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways, sidewalks, and patios.



8

Check your water footprint.

Use an online water-use calculator to assess how much water your home uses compared to a WaterSmart home. www.watercalculator.org



9

Turn to a pro.

When it's time to hire a landscaping professional, start with the list of Qualified Water-Efficient Landscapers who can make sure you are making the most of every drop. <https://qwel.net/map>



10

Plant with perfection.

Check out all the beautiful WaterSmart plant options that pair perfectly with San Diego County's Mediterranean climate. www.watersmartsdlandscaping.org



FOR MORE TIPS, RESOURCES AND REBATES, GO TO WATERSMARTSD.ORG.