

## Summer lawn conservation tips

Did you know that lawn watering uses more than half of all the water used by most California households? Here are some tips to help keep your lawn healthy all summer while lowering your monthly water bill.

- Only water when your lawn really needs it. You'll know when it's time if:
  - > the lawn takes on a blue-green or gray tinge;
  - > footprints on the lawn don't bounce back after a couple minutes; or
  - > an area is hard and uncomfortable to walk on barefoot.*(Also remember to go over these areas several times when you aerate your lawn.)*

If necessary, reset your automatic sprinkler to water more or less frequently.

- Water early in the morning or late at night, and avoid watering during windy times of the day. By watering during the day, you can lose as much as 20 to 25 percent of your water to evaporation from heat and wind. And during the heat of the day, water droplets clinging to grass can cause the sun to "burn" the individual blades. Set sprinklers to run at night between 9 p.m. and 9 a.m.
- Whether you use a sprinkler system or water by hand, keep the spray pattern coarse, low and slow. With fine mist or fog sprays, you're more likely to lose water to drifting and evaporation than with coarse sprays.
- Instead of watering the whole lawn to help with brown spots, water the dry spots by hand.
- If you water your lawn by hand, set a timer so you don't forget to move the hose.
- Don't water the sidewalks, driveway or gutter. Adjust your sprinklers so that the water lands on your lawn or garden – and only there.
- Check and maintain your sprinkler system regularly.
- Install a rain sensor with your automatic sprinkling system to override the system controller during and after rain storms.
- Don't scalp when you mow. A thicker lawn retains moisture better, so you won't have to water so often. Keep your mower set between 2 to 3 inches and remove no more than one-third of the blade each time you mow. And don't worry about raking up all the clippings – they serve as mulch that holds in more moisture.

To learn more about using water wisely, visit California Drought Preparedness at [www.cadroughtprep.net](http://www.cadroughtprep.net).



## Indoor conservation tips

California's long warm-weather season isn't the only time for paying attention to how much water we use. Water treatment and pumping together represent the single largest industrial use of electricity and diesel in California. During cooler months, when energy use is high, the steps we take to use less water will also help reduce energy consumption — that helps hold down energy costs for everyone.

The typical California household uses as much as 300 gallons of water per day or nearly 10,000 gallons a month. Using water wisely in the kitchen, laundry and bathroom can save 30 percent or more.

### Conserving water in the kitchen and laundry

- If you wash dishes by hand — and that's the best way — don't leave the water running for rinsing. If you have two sinks, fill one with rinse water. If you only have one sink, rinse with a sprayer or short blasts of water instead of letting the water run.  
*Saves 200 to 500 gallons a month.*
- Keep a bottle of drinking water in the refrigerator to avoid the habit of running tap water to cool it for drinking.  
*Saves 200 to 300 gallons a month.*
- Don't defrost frozen foods with running water. Plan ahead by placing frozen items in the refrigerator overnight or defrost them in the microwave.  
*Saves 50 to 150 gallons a month.*
- Don't let the faucet run while you clean vegetables. Rinse them in a filled sink or pan.  
*Saves 150 to 250 gallons a month.*
- Use the garbage disposal less and the garbage more (or, even better, compost!).  
*Saves 50 to 150 gallons a month.*
- Run only full loads in the washing machine and dishwasher.  
*Saves 300 to 800 gallons per month.*

**Total potential savings:**  
*950 to 2,150 gallons a month*

### Conserving water in the bathroom

- Put a plastic bottle or a plastic bag weighted with pebbles and filled with water in your toilet tank. Displacing water in this manner allows you to use less water with each flush. You can save even more by replacing your water-guzzling toilet with a new, ultra-low-flush model.  
*Saves up to 300 gallons a month, even more for large families.*
- Check toilet for leaks. Put dye tablets or food coloring into the tank. If color appears in the bowl without flushing, there's a leak that should be repaired.  
*Saves 400 gallons a month.*
- Turn off the water while brushing your teeth.  
*Saves three gallons each day.*
- Turn off the water while shaving. Fill the bottom of the sink with a few inches of water to rinse your razor.  
*Saves three gallons each day.*
- If you're taking a shower, don't waste cold water while waiting for hot water to reach the shower head. Catch that water in a container to use on your outside plants or to flush your toilet.  
*Saves 200 to 300 gallons a month.*

**Total potential savings:**  
*1080 to 1,180 gallons a month.*

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