

Simple Ways to Save Water at Home



water
SMART



East Bay Municipal Utility District
Visit our website at www.ebmud.com or
Call 1-866-403-2683

Indoors

Around the House

- ◆ **Find and fix all leaks**, especially toilet leaks. Replace their flappers or take advantage of EBMUD's rebates on new High Efficiency Toilets.
- ◆ **Install water-saving devices** like low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators. You can get these devices for free from EBMUD.
- ◆ **Consider buying a front-loading clotheswasher** to save water and energy.
- ◆ **Run dishwashers and clotheswashers with full loads only**, or adjust the water level to match the size of the load.
- ◆ **Don't leave the water running** when brushing your teeth, washing your hands, shaving, or doing the dishes.
- ◆ **Use the wastebasket**, not the toilet to dispose of trash.



- ◆ **Take shorter showers**, cut your shower to 4 minutes to save around 2,700 gallons per year.
- ◆ **Use the garbage disposal only if you must.**
- ◆ **Consider buying a High Efficiency Toilet (HET)**, which uses 1.28 gallons or less per flush.

Outdoors

Watering

- ◆ **Attach a nozzle** with a shutoff valve to the end of your hose.
- ◆ **Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it.** If you notice runoff, divide the watering time into two cycles to allow the water time to soak in.
- ◆ **Consider installing drip irrigation** to apply water slowly and directly to the roots of the plants.
- ◆ **Water your garden in the morning** to give the water time to soak into the ground before wind and the heat of the sun cause it to evaporate.
- ◆ **Water to the depth of the plant roots** (about 6 inches for lawns, 9 inches for ground cover, 12 inches for shrubs, and 18-24 inches for trees).
- ◆ **Use a soil probe** (or dig down in the plant's root area using a trowel) to determine if you are watering properly.
- ◆ **Water your garden only when it needs it.** It is time to water the lawn when it doesn't spring back when walked on.
- ◆ **Aim your sprinklers to water your garden,** not the sidewalk or other paved areas.
- ◆ **Adjust your watering schedule** with the weather and the season. If you have an automatic system, remember to turn it off in the winter.
- ◆ **Adjust your watering schedule** as your garden matures. Newly planted landscapes need water more frequently than mature ones.
- ◆ **Check your sprinkler system** for problems regularly.



Gardening

- ◆ **Plant water-conserving plants.**
- ◆ **Group thirsty plants together**, away from unthirsty ones.
- ◆ **Improve your soil** by incorporating organic matter. This aerates your soil, and improves its ability to hold water.
- ◆ **Prevent weeds** from stealing water from your garden by pulling them promptly and applying mulch regularly.
- ◆ **Mow grasses higher**, between 3 to 4 inches, to reduce water loss.
- ◆ **Fertilize less often**, only in the spring and fall. Fertilizing encourages rapid plant growth and thirsty plants. California native plants don't need fertilizing.
- ◆ **Aerate the lawn** by punching holes in the soil. This improves the movement of water into the root area and reduces wasteful runoff.



Other Outdoor Activities

- ◆ **Use a broom**, not a hose, to clean driveways and sidewalks.
- ◆ **Cover pools and spas**, and cut water loss by 90%.
- ◆ **Don't let the hose run** while you wash your car.