

Household Water Savings Guide



In the bathroom

1.

Use a low flow shower head, save up to 11% of water using the three high pressure fixtures provided. Conventional shower heads can use up to 4 gallons of water per minute and low flow shower heads can use as little as 1.25 gallons of water per minute!

2.

Place a bucket in the shower to capture the water that is run while warming up the shower. Tub faucets can use a minimum of 4 gallons of water per minutes! That clean water running down the drain can be useful! Try using collected water to water your garden.

3.

Use the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's "Water Lovers" station on Pandora to perfectly time a 5 minute shower. 17% of household water is used for showers. Time yourself using a shower timer, cellphone or alarm clock and try to shower one minute less each time until you reach to 5 minutes.

4.

Turn off the bathroom sink while shaving. Some bathroom faucets can use up to 2 gallons of water per minute! Install an aerator to help restrict water flow to the faucet, this can decrease usage and use as little as .5 gallons of water per minute.

5.

Turn off the water while brushing your teeth. Consider installing a faucet aerators, they are easy to install and the savings are instant!

6.

Check to make sure your toilet tank is not leaking into the bowl: put a few drops of food safe dye in the tank, allow it to spread through for about 15 minutes. If the color becomes visible in the bowl you have a leak. For repair services, search "Toilet" on WasteFreeSD.org



In the kitchen

7.

Run the dishwasher on full loads of dishes only. Inefficient dishwashers can use up to 15 gallons per load, make sure the dishwasher is used only when fully loaded with dishes and invest in an efficient model that can save money, energy and water.

8.

Scrape dirty dishes instead of rinsing before placing in the dishwasher. Some dishwashers don't require any pre-rinsing, check your user's manual to find out.

9. **Avoid using running water to thaw frozen foods, instead thaw food in the refrigerator overnight.** Make sure you place frozen food in a bowl to avoid a mess in your refrigerator. Be aware that some areas in the refrigerator are colder than others and allow for at least 24 hours to thaw completely.

10. **Install a faucet aerator.** Aerators restrict the maximum flow rate of water from the faucet while applying pressure; they are inexpensive and can be found a hardware store.

11. **Use a garbage disposal sparingly to minimize water and energy use.**

12. **Run full loads of laundry.** Even if your washing machine has adjustable load setting, the washing machine will be the most efficient when ran on a full load.

 **In the yard**

13. **Sweep driveways and sidewalks instead of rinsing.** Watering the driveway can be considered a stormwater violation, water mixed with oil stain and brake dust can travel to the nearest stormdrain which leads directly to the ocean.

14. **Install rain barrels to capture water from your roof.** San Diego receives an average of 10 inches of rain per year. Clean water hits the pavement, travels down the stormdrain and into the ocean.

15. **Turn off irrigation systems before rainstorms.** When significant rainfall occurs, make sure you don't run your sprinklers. Some irrigation systems even allow you to set seasonal irrigation programs!

16. **Install a pool cover to reduce evaporation.** Evaporation causes pools to lose over hundreds of gallons a year. Simply by covering a pool can cut evaporation by 95% lowering the demand to refill the pool more often.

17. **Take a WaterSmart Landscaping workshop.** Convert a traditional turf yard into a WaterSmart Landscape Makeover Program. This 4-class series offers lectures, lab work, demonstrations, and assignments to help transform your yard, the best part is that this program is free to residents in San Diego County!

18. **Wash your car with a bucket and sponge instead of a hose.** Washing your car with an open hose can use up to 100 gallons per wash, opt to use a car wash center that recycles the water.

For waste reduction, recycling or food waste reduction guides, visit WasteFreeSD.org/resources