



Water Conservation Tips



1. Replace your old toilets and save money with every flush

Recent advancements have allowed toilets to use 1.28 gallons per flush or less while still providing equal or superior performance. This is 20 percent less than the current federal standard of 1.6 gallons per flush. If purchasing a new toilet, consider buying one that is **WaterSense** labeled which has been certified to meet a rigorous criteria for both performance and efficiency.



2. Test your toilets for leaks at least once a year.

Toilet leaks can be silent! To test your toilet, put a dye tablet (or food coloring) in the tank. Wait 15 minutes, if color appears in the bowl then there is a leak.



3. Use a WaterSense® labeled showerhead.

They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month. Need a new showerhead? Check out the **Home Energy and Water Saving Toolkit** at the Burlingame Public Library for free showerhead and other no-cost water conservation devices.



4. Always wash a full load of dishes in your dishwasher.

Dishwashers typically use less water than washing by hand. If you're in the market for a new dishwasher, buy a certified Energy Star dishwasher to save even more water and energy.



5. When upgrading your clothes washing machine, choose an Energy Star model.

For a list of certified Energy Star products, visit www.energystar.gov. In the meantime, continue washing clothes in full loads and wash your dark clothes in cold water to help keep your clothes retain their color.



6. Reduce the amount of turf grass in your yard.

Convert your water-intensive turf lawn into a beautiful, California native garden. If you need help getting started, attend a free landscaping class near you by visiting www.bawsca.org/classes.



7. Convert your sprinkler system to a drip irrigation system.

Drip systems are very efficient since they deliver water straight to the roots. If you aren't able to install a drip system, consider replacing your sprinkler heads with micro-spray heads that use less water.



8. Install a rain barrel to store water for future use.

Don't let good water go to waste! The City offers a rebate of up to \$100 off a qualifying rain barrel. Visit www.bawsca.org/consERVE/rebates/barrels for complete rules and application. If you're new to rain barrels, attend a free landscape workshop. Upcoming classes are posted at www.bawsca.org/classes.



9. Spread a layer of organic mulch on your plants.

Applying a minimum of 2 inches of mulch to your shrubs helps reduce the need for frequent irrigation, increases plant health, and discourages weed growth.



10. Monitor your water bill for unusually high water use.

Your water bill and water meter are tools that can help you discover leaks.