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Ways to Conserve Water at Home

Parts of the south are in the midst of a major water shortage - California in particular. With the average 3-bedroom home in California using **174,000 gallons** of water per year, scaling back on water usage is a must.

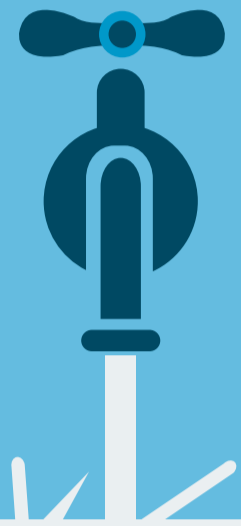


The recent statewide mandate to significantly reduce the amount of water being used calls for homeowners to make some changes at home. Luckily, many of these changes are simple & cost-effective, and can do wonders to alleviate the water crisis facing the Golden State.

Here are just a few things that can be done at home to conserve our precious water reserves.

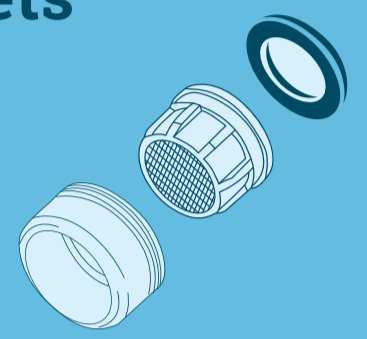
01 Fix Leaking Faucets and Taps

A tap that drips once per second can waste as much as **27,000 gallons** of water a year!



02 Install Aerators on Your Bathroom Faucets

You can save as much as **1.2 gallons** per person every day with this simple addition.



03 Only Run the Washing Machine When You've Got a Full Load

You can save as much as **45 gallons** of water for each full load.



04 Install a Low-Flow Shower Head

A typical shower head uses around **3 to 4 gallons** of water per minute, while a low-flow shower head uses only **2 gallons** per minute. The average 10-minute shower can therefore save as much as **12,775 gallons** a year!



05 Use a Hose Nozzle When Watering

Whether you're washing your vehicle or watering the plants, having a hose nozzle can save as much as **100 gallons** for each use.



06 Place a Heavy Water Bottle in Your Toilet Tank

Displacing the toilet water in such a way will result in much less water used per flush. You can save up to **6 gallons** of water per flush with this simple and cost-effective measure.



07 Install a Low-Flow Toilet

The water bottle method works great to cut down on water used to flush toilets, but you can make it a bit easier on yourself by installing a low-flow toilet. These models use as little as **1.2 gallons** of water per flush, compared to **6 gallons** for old-fashioned toilets.



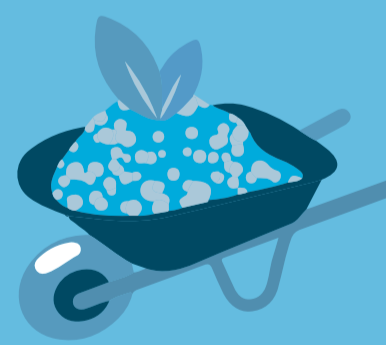
08 Water Your Garden First Thing in the Morning or Late at Night

These are the ideal times to get the most out of your water. The plants and flowers will soak the water up easily and quickly without the heat from the sun evaporating it before the plants have had a chance to drink. You can save as much as **20 gallons** of water with this simple practice.



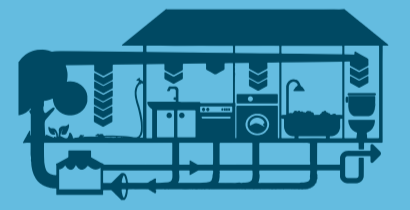
09 Place Mulch Around Your Plants

This will help slow the moisture evaporation in your yard, and avoid having to water more frequently than necessary.



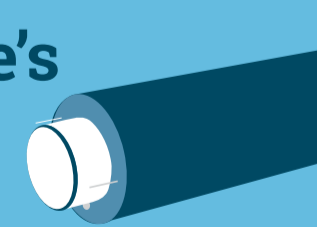
10 Install a Grey Water System

You can use 'grey water' (which is all used household water except from toilets) to water your plants and flowers or irrigate your lawn. These systems can help save up to **50,000 gallons** of water every year.



11 Insulate Your Home's Water Pipes

Don't run the water waiting for it to heat up - insulated water pipes provide allow warmer water right out of the gates.



12 Cut Back On Watering Your Lawn to Just Once a Week

Scaling back on your yard watering chore can save as much as **840 gallons** of water every time you're out there.



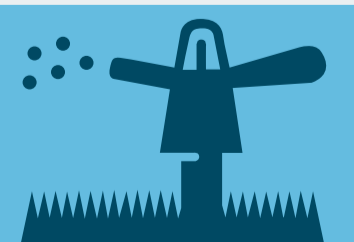
13 Install a Smart Sprinkler Controller

This handy gadget will adjust watering based on the weather, and can save up to **40 gallons** of water every day.



14 Repair Sprinkler Leaks

If you notice any leaks on your sprinkler head, replace it quickly. This will help save as much as **500 gallons** of water each month.



15 Shut the Water Off While Brushing Your Teeth

You can save up to **2.5 gallons** of water each minute with this simple act.

