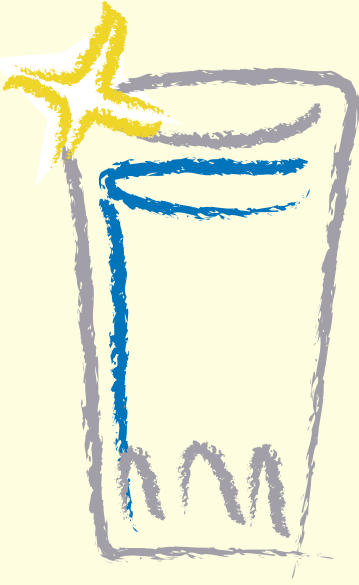


Why be water efficient? Here are a few good reasons.



Our water supply is precious.

- Only 2 percent of the world's water is available as fresh water. The Earth's total water supply is the same today as it was thousands of years ago.
- We live in a semi-arid climate. Our average rainfall is only 17 inches per year, which is less than half of what is received in the Midwest and East Coast. Additionally, we go without beneficial rain for four to five months every year.
- About half of our region is served by underground water aquifers. Past practices have overdrawn some aquifers while others have been tainted by groundwater pollution.

We need to protect and stretch our existing water supplies and develop new water supplies for future population and economic growth.

- Population in the Sacramento region is expected to grow from 1.6 million people to 2.5 million people by 2025.*
- To meet the region's growing water needs, regional stakeholders negotiated the Water Forum Agreement. The Water Forum Agreement requires:
 1. New facilities to provide combined use of our surface water and groundwater resources, and
 2. Positive actions to sustain the lower American River values of recreation, wildlife and fisheries, especially during droughts.
- Improved water efficiency is an important element to meet these goals.

Wasting water costs money.

- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency protects and regulates the purity of drinking water by setting increasingly stringent standards, which are increasingly more expensive.
- Developing new water supplies and building new treatment facilities is expensive.
- Working together, the public and water purveyors can help control these costs by managing the demand on this resource.
- Purifying and pumping water to your home uses energy. Save water, save energy, save money.

Your efforts to improve water efficiency will:

- Save energy in your home and in the community.
- Result in healthier, better-looking landscapes.
- Reduce pollution in our streams by stopping wasteful runoff from our landscapes to storm drains.
- Provide water for our growing population and economy.
- Provide flows in the lower American River for recreation and fisheries.
- Provide safe drinking water for our children and grandchildren.

Be water efficient — it's good for all of us.



The Regional Water Authority and its Water Efficiency Program were developed to help water providers meet the Water Forum objectives and promote water efficiency.

* Data Source: Sacramento Council of Governments for Sacramento, Placer, El Dorado, Yolo Counties, years 1999 to 2025.

How to be water efficient



Determining when your landscape needs water is simple. Test soil moisture with an inexpensive moisture meter or by using a screwdriver as a soil probe. If the screwdriver goes into the soil easily, don't water.

Water efficiency is the careful use of water to maximize the benefit and minimize consumption of water. Here are some things you can do to improve your water use efficiency.

Outside

- Use a shutoff nozzle instead of letting the hose run.
- Avoid water-wasting run-off — don't water sidewalks, driveways or gutters.
- Maintain your irrigation system — frequently check for leaks, clogs or misdirected sprinklers and emitters.
- Water outdoors between midnight and 10 a.m. to avoid the peak energy hours and minimize evaporation. Avoid peak water use hours of 5 to 8 a.m.
- Water with the weather. Turn off your sprinklers and irrigation system during the rainy season or install a rain sensor to automatically shut off your sprinklers when it's raining.
- Group plants with similar water, soil and sun exposure needs.
- Put a layer of mulch around trees and plants to reduce evaporation and water-stealing weeds.
- Reduce lawn size and incorporate water efficient plants into your landscape.

Inside **

- Install a low-flow showerhead (save up to 800 gallons a month).
- Turn off the tap while brushing your teeth (save up to 10 gallons a day).
- Install ultra-low flush toilets (save 10 to 40 gallons a day).
- Run only full loads of laundry and dishes (save up to 800 gallons a month).
- Use a high-efficiency washing machine (save more than 16 gallons a load).
- Repair a leaky faucet (save up to 429 gallons a month).
- Install a low-flow faucet aerator (save more than 140 gallons a month).
- Fix toilet leaks (save up to 500 gallons of water a day).

** Data Source: California Urban Water Conservation Council

Water meters are an excellent tool for detecting leaks. Here's how: Shut off all faucets, spigots and other water fixtures. If the triangular-shaped leak detector on your water meter is still turning, you probably have a leak.

Even if you're doing all you can, maybe we can show you something new. Call your water provider for help. Many local water providers offer free services, programs and products to help you use water wisely. Or call (888)WTR-TIPS or (888)987-8477. Or find more information on-line, visit www.rwah2o.org.

