

DROUGHT STATUS AND WATER SUPPLY

With 93% of the state now falling under severe drought conditions. Santa Ana River Water Company is asking our customers to continue stepping up their water conservation efforts by voluntarily reducing their water use by 20%.

Review these helpful tips to reduce around the house and around the yard.

Around the House



Fill Bathtub Halfway or Less

Filling up your bathtub halfway or less can save 17-25 gallons of water per person every bath.



Fix Leaks

Fixing leaks inside and outside the home can save 27 to 90 gallons of water each day.



Install Aerators

Installing aerators can save .7 gallons per minute.



Install High-Efficiency Toilets

Installing high-efficiency toilets can save 6-35 gallons per day.



Recycle Indoor Water and Irrigate Your Garden

Recycling indoor water to use outdoors can cut water use by 30%.



Take 5-minute Showers

Keeping showers under 5 minutes can save 12.5 gallons per shower when using a water-efficient showerhead.



Turn Off Water When Brushing Teeth, Shaving

By turning off the water when brushing teeth or shaving you can save 8 gallons of water per person per day.



Wash Full Loads of Clothes and Dishes

Washer: saves 15-45 gallons per load. Dishwasher: saves 5-15 gallons per load.

Around the Yard



Use Water-wise Plants

Check with your local water agency on the best plants for your area. It is best to use water-wise, California-native plants when possible.



Install Drip Irrigation & Add a Smart Controller

Installing a drip irrigation system and a smart controller can save 15 gallons each time you water.



Reimagine Your Yard

Feed your vegetables and fruits water first because they feed you! Water-wise plants and shade trees use little or no water once established. Thirsty plants such as lawn and container plants are the lowest priority.



Use a Broom to Clean Outdoor Areas

Using a broom to clean outdoor areas can save 6 gallons every minute.



Use Drought-resistant Trees, Plants

Using drought-resistant plants and trees can save 30-60 gallons per 1000 sq. ft. each time.



Set Mower Blades to 3"

Setting mower blades to three inches encourages deeper roots and saves 16-50 gallons per day.



Adjust Sprinkler Heads & Fix Leaks

Saves 12-15 gallons each time you water and a leak about as small as the tip of a ballpoint pen can waste about 6,300 gallons of water per month!



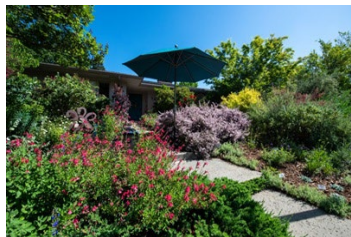
Use Mulch

Using mulch can save 20-30 gallons of water per 1000 sq. ft. each time you water.

Six SMALL Changes That Can A BIG Difference

Despite the rainfall, California and the western U.S. remain in a severe climate-driven drought. The recent rain and snow are much-needed but don't make up for the record-dry start to the year.

It is important that Californians come together to save one of our most precious resources: water. Now is a great opportunity to commit to helping our planet and our state by taking small steps to save water.



1. Move on from the lawn

About half of all household water use is spent outside the house on landscaping. The biggest culprit is thirsty lawns.

While removing a lawn may seem daunting, it can ultimately save each household hundreds, or even thousands of dollars per year on water and lawn maintenance, depending on the size of the lot. Plus, no more spending countless hours per week on mowing and weed removal.



2. Upgrade to smart irrigation

A small investment in drip irrigation is a great way to save water and money on your water bill. Drip irrigation and soaker hoses focus water distribution to the root of each plant instead of casting water into the air like sprinklers.

This keeps plants happy, minimizes the amount of water run-off and evaporation, and reduces the amount of watering needed in your yard. It also keeps water off the leaves of each plant, which can prevent damage to plants during periods of hot weather.

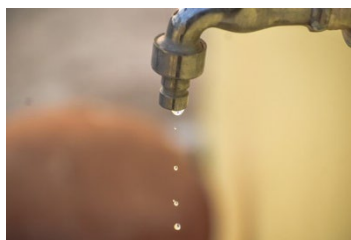
Upgrade your irrigation system with a smart timer and put your watering on autopilot. These devices connect to your home's Wi-Fi and will automatically skip watering on days when rain is in the forecast.



3. Choose native California plants for your garden

Low-water use native California plants are uniquely adapted for our state's pattern of long, hot summers that see little or no rainfall. Because of this, they typically require little and sometimes zero supplemental watering. Native plants also save gardeners time and money, since they tend to require less maintenance, fertilization, moving, and pruning and watering.

Not only are California native plants easier to take care of, but they are also exquisite, and the local bees, butterflies and hummingbirds they attract put on an amazing show.



4. Fix leaks around the house

Many people do not realize that the cause of an increase in water usage is a leaky pipe or faucet. Tightening loose fittings and replacing leaky pipes around the home can save 27 to 90 gallons of water each day.

This economical move is by far one of the simplest ways to help save water year-round. One way to get started is to check for water damage in and around the house, replace broken faucets and fix or replace broken toilet fill valves. Be sure to also run your sprinklers for a few minutes during the daytime and hunt for sprinkler heads that may need to be replaced.



5. Water plants, not pavement

Another quick and simple fix that can save water and keep your plants healthy is to make sure that all sprinkler heads are aiming water directly toward plants in your yard, and that no water is running off onto roads or sidewalks.

Water that runs off onto concrete quickly evaporates, especially during hot weather. Preventing water runoff and evaporation drastically reduces the amount of supplemental watering needed to maintain plants during the hot and arid months.



6. Care for your trees

Many people neglect trees around their home to save time and water. But failing to properly care for your trees by providing the water they need to survive and thrive during California's hot and dry seasons is counterproductive.

Trees provide shade, which can help reduce the amount of supplemental water needed to maintain your yard. Also, when trees become parched, they often drop large branches, succumb to disease, or even fall down, which can cause thousands of dollars in property damage. Trees also reduce the amount of pollution in the air, reduce erosion and provide a habitat for birds and native species. Having healthy trees near windows can also help lower your electricity bills during the summer by keeping your house cool.