

WATERSHED PROTECTION PROGRAM



Water Conservation & Water Quality Tips

Did you know that you can help protect San Diego's water quality by using water more efficiently? By preventing over-irrigation and unnecessary outdoor water use, you can help to prevent polluted water runoff from entering our stormwater conveyances and waterways.

Here are a few ways you can help out:

- **Sweep it up:** By using a broom to clean your porch or driveway instead of a hose, you get exercise and fresh air while saving 8 to 18 gallons of water per minute.
- **Adjust your sprinklers:** Water your landscape, not the pavement. By preventing overspray, you can save an average of 15-20 gallons per day.
- **Repair leaks:** Identify and repair broken irrigation pipes, dripping faucets, and broken sprinkler heads to save as much as 10 gallons of water per minute per leak.
- **Adjust watering times:** Shorten watering times by 1-3 minutes to prevent over saturating your landscape and prevent water runoff.
- **Reduce watering days:** Water no more than three days a week and only in the early morning hours to limit the amount of water evaporation and save 20-25 gallons per day per valve.
- **Use mulch:** Add a few inches of mulch around trees and plants to reduce evaporation and help prevent weed growth and other pests at the same time. Using mulch can save over 40 gallons of water per day and reduce the need for pesticides.
- **Install drip systems:** Drip irrigation systems water only where needed, directly on the root systems of individual plants. When used properly, they can save up to 25 gallons per day.
- **Plant natives:** Replacing a portion of your lawn or landscape with water wise native plants can save 30 to 60 gallons day per 1,000 square feet. Additionally, native plants may have fewer pests.
- **Implement smart irrigation controllers:** Smart controllers automatically adjust the amount of water that is used based on weather conditions at your house. Smart controllers can save over 40 gallons per day.
- **Put a nozzle on that hose:** Install a self closing nozzle to limit and direct the amount water flowing from your hose to the location where it is actually needed.

Thank you for doing your part! For further information visit:

www.rethinkwateruse.org or www.20gallonchallenge.com. To report Stormwater Pollution, call 1-888-846-0800. If you have questions regarding specific water conservation requirements in your neighborhood, please contact your local water provider directly.

