



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO WATERSCAPE REBATE PROGRAM

Project Photo Guidance

As part of the application for the Waterscape Rebate Program (WRP), participants are required to submit pre-project and post-project photos. The purpose of these photos is for WRP staff to verify that your project complies with the program requirements that ensure safety and functionality. Please review the guidelines below before starting your project so you can successfully capture high-quality photos before and after work is completed. When reviewing your photos, ask yourself “Can someone who is not familiar with this project clearly see what was done and verify that it is correct and accurate?” WRP staff may request additional photos or a home visit if photos are unclear.

Photo Tips for All Projects

- Take pre-project and post-project photos from the same location and same angle.
- Position the camera to take a landscape/horizontal-oriented view.
- Label photos to indicate the part of the property and project they show. Do not send duplicate photos.
- Focus photos on the project; leave out personal features like addresses, faces, and animals.
- Photos should be clear, centered, and taken during daylight hours.
- Step back six feet from the subject to reveal neighboring elements and provide greater context.

Avoid these common photo errors to ensure your project is approved quickly:

- Pre-project photos missing
- Pre-project and post-project photos taken from different locations/angles
- Measurement photos taken from too far away to read the measuring tape
- Overflow area photo missing

Pre- and Post-Project Photos

- Pre-project photos should be taken before beginning any work.
- Post-project photos should be taken after completing the entire project.
- Show the entire project area within one photo (including the roof/water source and the WRP project).
- Take separate photo(s) of the project's intended overflow area.
- Include photos of existing irrigation in the project area (if applicable).
- Include photos of existing erosion, drainage or other problem areas that the WRP project will be addressing.
- Clearly include photos of new landscaping and plants, including new edging or hardscape elements added.

Work-In-Progress (WIP) Project Photos

- WIP photos should be captured for garden projects or projects with buried components.
- Capture photos of the project before covering up any groundwork or making any final pipe connections.
- Show the project's inner workings, hidden components, or transition points (i.e., where water leaves the pipe).
- Take close-up photos of important features as applicable (i.e., filters, pumps, unique connections).
- Include photos showing that irrigation is capped or has been replaced with drip irrigation (if applicable).

Measurement Photos

- Show project adhering to the clearance requirements of your BMP type (i.e., overflow must be at least 5 feet from any structure).
- Show a ruler element and cross-sectioned marker (i.e., string or stick) to make the measurement reading clear.
- Take measurements at the center of the project to show average depth is adequate to capture enough runoff.

Photo Examples

Pre-Project Photos

Project A

Entire project area is shown



Post-Project Photos

Project A

Same angle as the pre-project photo



Project B

Doesn't show the entire project area



Project B

Not the same angle as the pre-project photo



Project Measurement Photos

Cross-reference to mark measurement



No cross-reference, hard to see numeric measurement



Work In Progress Photos

Shows the inner workings of the project



Shows project before it is finished/covered

