

How can I reduce my water consumption by 20%?



On January 17, 2014, Governor Jerry Brown declared a drought emergency in California and asked that all Californians reduce their water consumption by 20%. Many customers are asking "what does a 20% reduction look like?"

Here are some ideas on how you can reduce your water consumption by 20% or more:

1. **Cut your lawn irrigation time in half.** Sprinklers typically use 12 gallons per minute per zone. How many hours are you watering your lawn in a typical month? Every hour of lawn watering is costing you between \$1.25 and \$2.49 per irrigation zone. 5 zones x 3 hours a week = \$150 per month. Better yet, replace your grass with water saving plants that don't need much irrigating and receive a rebate. Call us for details.
2. **Irrigate during the cooler parts of the day.** During the sunniest part of the day, a lot of the water is being evaporated before the plants have a chance to benefit from it.
3. **Perform an irrigation audit to make sure your system isn't wasting water.** Use your water meter to measure your sprinkler usage (<http://vvcsd.org/custserv/meter.htm>) and to help you find leaks in your system. Then create a sprinkler schedule (<http://vvcsd.org/custserv/sprinkler.htm>) that is most efficient for your type of soil.
4. **Turn the water off while you brush your teeth.** This simple step can save 300 gallons per person per month. For a family of four that's a savings of between \$2 and \$5 per month.
5. **Reduce your shower time from 10 minutes to 8 minutes.** This can save 300 gallons per person per month. Another \$5 in potential savings. Be sure to stop by our office for your free showerhead and shower timer.
6. **Reduce the number of loads of laundry and dishes.** Full loads can help reduce your water usage. A reduction of one load per week can save 80 gallons per month with high efficiency appliances, 200 gallons per month with older appliances. Have you recently purchased a new washing machine? Call us for information about a rebate.
7. **Wash your car on your lawn or go to the car wash.** Although they both cost you about the same, most car washes recycle the collected dirty water. If you haven't already, come by our office and pick up your free hose nozzle.
8. **Use a broom to sweep your sidewalks and driveways.** Do not use your hose. Hosing down the concrete uses about 150 gallons of water each time.
9. **Checks for leaks in your system.** A slow drip (5 drips per minute) can waste more than 20 gallons in a month. A larger leak (1 cup per minute) can waste 2,700 gallons per month. A leaky toilet can cost you more than \$3 per month in wasted water.

For more water (and money) saving tips, please visit <http://vvcsd.org/custserv/checklist.htm> or <http://www.epa.gov/greenhomes/ConserveWater.htm>. To find out how you can qualify for rebates or receive free water saving devices, please call us at (805) 733-2475 or stop by our office at 3757 Constellation Road.

Vandenberg Village Community Services District is proud to promote a conservation attitude with rebates, grants, and FREE water conservation devices.