



CITY OF
ARROYO GRANDE
CALIFORNIA

March/April 2014

IMPORTANT WATER CONSERVATION INFORMATION

Dear Resident,

As you may be aware, the Governor has declared a *Drought State of Emergency*. As a result, the City will be increasing its monitoring and enforcement of water use restrictions. The City wants to remind residents that water conservation restrictions remain in effect and the City continues to offer a comprehensive program of water conservation incentives. Below are the City's mandatory water conservation measures:

- Use of water which results in excessive gutter runoff is prohibited.
- No water shall be used for cleaning driveways, patios, parking lots, sidewalks, streets or other such use except where necessary to protect the public health and safety.
- Outdoor water use for washing vehicles shall be attended and have hand-controlled watering devices, typically including spring-loaded shutoff nozzles.
- Outdoor irrigation is prohibited between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.
- Irrigation of private and public landscaping, turf areas and gardens is permitted at even-numbered addresses only on Mondays and Thursdays and at odd-numbered addresses only on Tuesdays and Fridays.
- No irrigation of private and public landscaping, turf areas and gardens is permitted on Wednesdays. Irrigation is permitted at all addresses on Saturdays and Sundays.
- In all cases, customers are directed to use no more water than necessary to maintain landscaping.
- Emptying and refilling swimming pools and commercial spas are prohibited except to prevent structural damage and/or to provide for the public health and safety.
- Use of potable water for soil compaction or dust control purposes in construction activities is prohibited.

The City provides financial assistance to residents to reduce water consumption. Low-flow toilets and showerheads are installed at no cost to homes built prior to 1992 (contact the Public Works Department at 473-5460 for more information about the City's plumbing retrofit program). Financial rebates are available for water efficient washing machines, digital irrigation controllers and automatic sensors, and the replacement of turf areas with drought tolerant plants (contact the Community Development Department at 473-5420 for more information about water conservation rebate programs).

Ways to Save Hundreds of Gallons of Water Every Week

Here are some simple ways to help you save water. Whatever your conservation goal is, the more of these steps you take the more water you'll save. The more water you save, the more money you'll save on your water and sewer bill.

In the Bathroom

1. While waiting for hot water to come through the pipes, catch the cool, clean water in a bucket or a watering can. You can use it later to water plants, run your garbage disposer, or pour into the toilet bowl to flush. Replace your regular showerheads with low-flow showerheads.
2. Keep your showers down to five minutes or less using a low-flow showerhead.
3. Turn the water off while lathering-up in the shower. Then turn the water back on to quickly rinse.
4. Take shallow baths.
5. Replace your older model toilets with new ultra-low-flush models.
6. Check your toilets for leaks. Drop a dye tablet or a teaspoon of food coloring (avoid red) in the tank. If color appears in the bowl after 15 minutes, you probably need to replace the "flapper" valve.
7. Flush the toilet only when necessary. Never use the toilet as an ashtray or wastebasket.
8. Never let the water run while brushing your teeth or shaving.

In the Kitchen

9. Hand wash dishes just once a day using the least amount of detergent possible. This will cut down on rinsing. Use a sprayer or short blasts of water to rinse.
10. If you have a dishwasher, run it only when you have a full load.
11. Scrape food scraps off dishes in the garbage can or rinse them off with very short blasts of water.
12. Never use hot, running water to defrost frozen foods. Plan ahead and place frozen items in the refrigerator overnight or use the microwave oven.
13. Rinse vegetables and fruits in a pan filled with water instead of under running water. When done, use the water to irrigate plants.
14. Run your garbage disposer only on alternate days.

Around the House

15. Repair all leaky faucets, fixtures and pipes both inside and outside your home.
16. When doing the laundry, never wash less than a full load.
17. Collect washing machine rinse water in utility sink. You can use it later to water indoor plants, run your garbage disposer, or pour into the toilet bowl to flush.
18. Set lawn mower blades one notch higher since longer grass reduces evaporation. Leave grass clippings on your grass; this cools the ground and holds in moisture. Use chunks of bark, peat moss or gravel to cover bare ground in gardens and around trees.
19. Never hose down your patio or balcony – use a broom or blower.
20. Don't allow children to play with the hose.
21. If you have a pool, use a cover to cut down evaporation. This will also keep your pool cleaner and reduce the need to add chemicals.
22. Take your car to a car wash that recycles its wash water. For car washing at home, use a bucket of water and sponge to wash your car. Rinse quickly at the end. Always use hand-controlled watering devices, such as spring-loaded shutoff nozzles.
23. Water your lawn and landscaping early in the morning or after the sun sets when there's less evaporation. Adjust your sprinklers so they don't spray on sidewalks, driveway or street.