



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Water Department

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“Spring” into Water Conservation By Luis Generoso, Water Resources Manager, City of San Diego

SAN DIEGO – As temperatures and daylight hours increase heading into spring, so too does the temptation to use more water around our homes. Since San Diego remains in the midst of a water crisis, it is important to resist the temptation to use more water. In fact, the change in seasons is the perfect time to change our watering habits and to recommit ourselves to conservation every where we can.

“We see it every year,” said Chris Robbins from the City’s Water Conservation Program. “With more daylight, there tends to be an increased consumption of water. This could be due to various reasons including more time outdoors doing yard work as the sun sets a little later each day. Since the majority of our water is used for outdoor irrigation, the important tip for this spring is to check your plants and lawns before turning on the hose or sprinklers. They probably don’t need as much moisture as you think and you may be able to save a lot of water and a lot of money by revising your outdoor watering schedule.”

Here’s some other ways you can incorporate more water conservation tips into your spring-cleaning routine and landscape preparation:

- ◆ In case San Diego gets some spring showers, make sure you clean out and redirect downspout gutters toward trees, plants and other landscaped areas. Mother Nature’s rain will then take care of watering your landscape at no cost. Prevent water from being wasted by turning off your irrigation system when it rains and keeping it off for several days after the rain.
- ◆ Delay regular lawn watering during the first cool weeks of spring to encourage deep root growth to make a lawn healthier for the summer. It’s also the perfect time to adjust your irrigation schedule. To create a free watering schedule tailored to your plants and lawn, visit the Water Conservation Program’s website at www.sandiego.gov/water/conservation to access the free Landscape Watering Calculator.
- ◆ If you are starting to plan for your garden, visit the Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College to gather some ideas on how you can create a water-wise garden that will be healthy and beautiful for the spring and summer seasons. The Garden has free admission and parking. For more information on the Water Conservation Garden, including hours of operation and special events, call 619-660-0614 or visit their website at www.thegarden.org.

- ◆ If you plan on cleaning your driveway, patio or sidewalk, remember to use a broom, not a hose. This will save up to 100 gallons of water and prevent run-off of pollutants into storm drains and beaches.
- ◆ Check the toilets, faucets, showers, and sprinklers for leaks, and replace valves as necessary. You can save up to 150 gallons a week for each leak. For a comprehensive inspection, sign up for the City of San Diego’s free Residential Water Survey Program. A trained surveyor will analyze both your indoor and outdoor water use, and will make recommendations as needed. For more information, or to schedule an appointment, call 619-570-1999.
- ◆ While you’re cleaning out your bathroom, install a low-flow showerhead. This type of showerhead can save you up to 75 gallons of water per week.
- ◆ Cover your pool when it is not in use to prevent water evaporation. This will also prevent leaves and other dirt from falling in.

“Try implementing a few tips at a time, and before you know it, using water efficiently will be second nature to you,” said Robbins. “Now is the time to ‘spring’ into water conservation and make it a part of your regular routine.”

The Water Conservation Program reduces water demand through promoting or providing incentives for the installation of hardware that provides permanent water savings, and by providing services and information to help San Diegans make better decisions about water use. For more information about Water Conservation, visit <http://www.sandiego.gov/water/conservation> or call (619) 515-3500.

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