



## Keeping Conservation in Mind

### Hitting the Target

As of January 2016, San Diego has reduced its usage levels and cumulative water use by 19 percent, besting the state-mandated reduction of 16 percent. San Diegans achieved this through cooperation and diligence in making sure water is used wisely, water restrictions are adhered to and water waste is eliminated.

Smart water use coupled with the recognition of investments San Diegans have made to secure a more reliable water future – desalination that now provides potable water to the region in particular – has made it so the mandated reduction through October 2016 has dropped to 8 percent.

However, as the percentage of water we are asked to save is reduced, the need to conserve water remains. The lack of rain and snowfall in February reduced some of the gains achieved early in the El Nino season, and serves as a reminder that the drought is far from over.

### Restrictions

Watering restrictions and current irrigation schedule will remain in effect. Historically up to 50 percent of residential water use in the city has been used to irrigate lawns and landscaping. The following irrigation schedule adopted in 2015 is still mandatory for City of San Diego residents

WATER ONLY THESE DAYS	
WATER ONLY <b>2</b> DAYS A WEEK	<b>ODD</b> NUMBERED ADDRESSES <i>Water only: Sunday &amp; Thursday</i>
	<b>EVEN</b> NUMBERED ADDRESSES <i>Water only: Saturday &amp; Wednesday</i>
	<b>APARTMENTS, CONDOS, &amp; BUSINESSES</b> <i>Water only: Monday &amp; Friday</i>
WATER ONLY <b>5</b> MINUTES PER STATION	

The City is obligated to enforce these watering restrictions. For more information on watering restrictions, visit [www.wastenowater.org](http://www.wastenowater.org).

### Resources

The City of San Diego continues to provide programs and services that help customers reduce water use. City staff can help identify onsite water use and ways to conserve water through the Residential Water Use Survey Program. For more information, visit [www.WasteNoWater.org](http://www.WasteNoWater.org) or call (619) 236-1900.

The City-supported Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College continues to provide landscaping ideas in water efficient design and maintenance, classes on how to properly kill your grass, use mulch, select the appropriate plants and maintain a firewise landscape continue to be popular. For more information, visit [www.TheGarden.org](http://www.TheGarden.org).



## Rebates

Rain barrel rebates are still available. You can receive a \$1/gallon rebate for rain barrels you purchase and install, up to \$400. For more information, visit [www.WasteNoWater.org](http://www.WasteNoWater.org)

Several rebates are offered by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California through the SoCal WaterSmart program, such as high efficiency clotheswashers and toilets, moisture sensor and rotating sprinkler nozzles, and weather based irrigation controllers. For more information, visit [www.SoCalWaterSmart.com](http://www.SoCalWaterSmart.com).

## Do It Yourself

There are also many ways you can maintain your home water conservation efforts around your home.

- Check your garden hose connection to ensure it's tight and the nozzle itself is not broken or leaking.  
If there is a puddle or a muddy spot under your garden hose a leaky nozzle is most likely the cause.
- Check your toilet to see if it "runs" between flushes.  
A running toilet is caused when there's a leak between the tank and the toilet bowl.
- Use your water meter as a leak detector.  
Your water meter is generally located near the curb in front of your home. However, the meter may also be located in an alley way behind your property. Take a look at the meter and write down the total you see on the dial. Next, turn off every faucet in and around your home as tight as you can (make sure washing machines and dishwashers are turned off). Wait at least 15 minutes then check your meter again. If the numbers have changed, you've got a leak.
- Make sure every faucet and fixture is water efficient.  
Take stock. Are there aerators on every faucet throughout the house? Are there low-flow heads on every shower? Are the toilets water efficient (less than two gallons per flush)? Does the washing machine adjust water levels for each load (small, medium and large)? Does the dishwasher have an efficiency setting to help conserve water? Having answers to these questions will help you know how much more you can conserve and will be important information to share with the water survey staff member during your appointment.
- Learn more about your garden.  
The majority of residential water waste results from over watering landscapes. You may be surprised how well your garden will do with less water. Give it a try by choosing one flower bed, a part of your lawn or some other small space for less irrigation. You will see the results soon and can make adjustments for the rest of your yard. Each of these recommendations will give you a head start in conserving water into the future.

With San Diego's water reduction goal set at 8 percent, all of us need to continue to take action to save water wherever and whenever possible. For more tips, visit [WasteNoWater.org](http://WasteNoWater.org).