



The state flower, the California Poppy, is drought-resistant.

Calculate Your Landscape Water Needs

Maybe you're calculating the number of days to your vacation right about now. Or, maybe you're calculating all the money you'll win if that long-shot comes in first at Del Mar. Well, here's something else you can calculate and it's good for the City of San Diego, the environment and your wallet.

To give you and San Diegans like you a win in your efforts to "waste no water," the City of San Diego has developed a Landscape Watering Calculator, which is available through its website.

With this calculator, you can figure out just how much water you should be using to keep your yard and garden vibrant. By doing so, you won't waste any excess water.

In the past, you might have played a guessing game, trying to figure out how much water was necessary to do the trick. No need to guess anymore and no need to be an MIT graduate either to calculate how much water is necessary.

The calculator is an easy-to-use tool to help you estimate the right amount of water to give your landscape or garden. It gives a weekly schedule for the maximum amount of water your plants may need each month of the year. (In summer, they need more, because it's hotter. See how easy this is?)

Because everyone's landscape is different, the calculator has been simplified by using average numbers for weather, plants, and soils in San Diego.

Calculations take into account where you live, what type of plants are being watered, the type of soil in your yard, and which type of watering system you have. A calculation can even be made for each individual area throughout your yard.

Once the calculation has been made, the Landscape Watering Schedule can be used as a guide to program automatic irrigation controllers, as shown on the results page, for each month. That means you don't have to do the calculations repeatedly.

And, that means you save water...and time. (Time for summer fun at the beach, in particular.)

While we cannot guarantee a win at Del Mar, we can guarantee that conservation is a winning lifestyle choice. With water schedules in effect permanently, how much you water is also an important part of "wasting no water." To create your watering schedule today, [click here](#).



Use the Landscape Watering Calculator

IN YOUR COMMUNITY

The message to "waste no water" and the Water Conservation team are out in your neighborhood:

DRIP IRRIGATION CLINIC

Mondays- Fridays in August:
10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Sports Arena Home Depot

For more information on how you can retrofit your irrigation to be more water-wise, stop by Jerry Hull's Drip Irrigation Clinic. For directions, [click here](#).

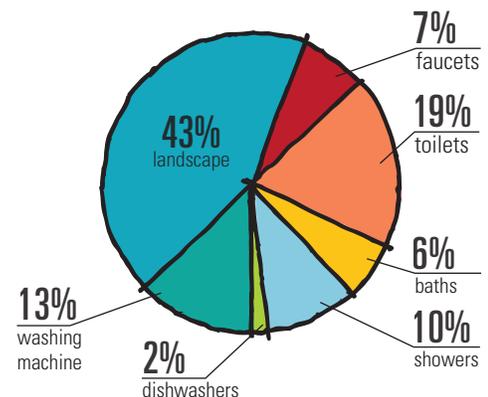
FREE GARDEN TOURS

Saturdays, August 13, 20 & 27: 10:30 a.m.
The Water Conservation Garden

To view the Water Conservation Garden's events calendar, [click here](#).

DID YOU KNOW?

Locally, what is the typical water usage of a single family home?



San Diego County has a semi-arid climate and a very small supply of local water. Between 75% and 95% of the county's water is imported. On average, 43% of residential water usage goes to maintain outdoor landscaping, but some households use up to 60% on landscaping.

Source: San Diego County Water Authority

You Too Can Save Water: Try Drip Irrigation



This month's featured San Diegan is Jerry Hull, Clinic Captain at the Sports Arena Home Depot. Every weekday donning his signature orange apron, Jerry helps San Diegans like you make water-wise choices. His hour-long clinic on drip irrigation every Monday through Friday at 10:00 a.m. through the month of August consistently draws the most participants.

Q: How do you advertise your clinic?

A: I make an announcement about the clinic on the loud speaker in the store every morning. I focus on enticing shoppers who are looking to save money on their water bills and I encourage them to visit my clinic to learn easy, applicable and water-wise irrigation tips.

Q: How many participants do you have daily?

A: On average, 5-15 people, both professionals and homeowners, stop by with questions or to get more information.

Q: What do you teach during your drip irrigation program?

A: During a typical clinic session, I walk participants through how their irrigation is constructed, starting with how water is brought into their house and distributed to their irrigation system. I illustrate how pop-up sprinklers can be retrofitted to drip systems for non-lawn areas. Drip systems, which are much more water efficient, can be installed using the same hook-ups as pop-up irrigation systems. In combination with using different slow-drip hoses, depending on each plants specific water needs, these systems can be extremely efficient.

San Diegans are able to retrofit their irrigation systems without converting their whole system. This adaptability decreases the cost of labor, installation, required parts and on how much is spent on water.

Q: What message do you hope to get across?

A: I hope to educate people on how changing to drip irrigation is the way to go.

Q: Is the rising cost of water a factor in conservation?

A: Yes. There's definitely a direct connection between the increase in clinic attendance last summer when water became more expensive and less abundant. Even with the City's Level 2 Drought Alert lifted, some water restrictions are still in place and are now a permanent way of life for San Diegans. So, yes, San Diegans are still looking for water-wise and money-saving options. Water conservation achieves both goals.

Q: How much does it cost to retrofit a traditional pop-up irrigation system to one that is more water efficient?

A: Depending on the size of your landscape, costs for retrofitting your system with a combination of sprayers, drip hoses and slow-drip soaker hoses would roughly start at \$10-\$15. A battery operated drip timer to accompany the retrofitted system would cost between \$30-\$40.

To learn more about drip irrigation from Jerry Hull, visit him at the Sports Arena Home Depot or [click here](#) for some more water-wise landscape ideas.



Water Purification Demonstration Project Debuts

Recycled Water Technology is Now Open for Public Tours

On July 19, the City of San Diego opened its highly anticipated Water Purification Demonstration Project at the North City Water Reclamation Plant for public tours. You are invited to visit the new advanced purification facility, take a walking tour of the facility and hear a presentation. At the end of the tour, you can view the purified water produced and compare it to drinking water and recycled water samples. This project is part of reducing our reliance on 90% imported water and diversifying our local water supply portfolio.

For more information on the Water Purification Demonstration Project, [click here](#).

ONLINE RESOURCES

Landscape Watering Calculator

To create a weekly schedule for watering your plants and landscape each month of the year, [click here](#).

EPA WaterSense Kids

Thirsty for knowledge? For interactive games on why you and your family should save water and some simple ways to do so, [click here](#).

Smart Outdoor Water Use

Check out the Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense Program website for a variety of ideas and resources on smart outdoor water use, [click here](#).

Social Media

Check us out online by clicking the links or scanning the codes below with your smart phone's QR code scanner to get connected today.

