



Golden State Water Company

A Subsidiary of American States Water Company

TIP SHEET

How You Can Reduce Water Usage by 20 Percent

BACKGROUND: Golden State Water Company (GSWC) is asking its customers to voluntarily reduce their water consumption in response to one of the driest periods in California history. GSWC is targeting an overall 20 percent reduction companywide from these voluntary efforts.

The average Californian uses about 190 gallons of water per day. To achieve a 20 percent reduction in water usage, individuals would need to cut back water use by about 38 gallons per day.

Sound difficult? It may be a lot easier than you think. Californians use more than 50 percent of their water outdoors and much of that is used inefficiently. Changing daily habits inside the home also can produce some significant water savings.

The following **outdoor** and **indoor** water conservation tips provide the average Californian with a variety of ways to reach a 20 percent reduction in daily water consumption.

OUTDOOR WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

- **Upgrade to a “smart” irrigation system.** These smart systems automatically adjust watering times based on the weather and turn off the sprinklers when it rains.
Estimated daily savings: 20-40 gallons per 1,000 square feet of land being irrigated.
- **Replace a section of your lawn with California-friendly plants.** Contact a local nursery or your local chapter of the California Native Plant Society to get information about these plants.
Estimated daily savings: 30-60 gallons per 1,000 square feet.
- **Add 2 to 3 inches of mulch around trees and plants.** Mulch shades the soil and moisture from the sun, thus lessening water evaporation.
Estimated daily savings: 20-30 gallons per 1,000 square feet of mulch.
- **Install pool and spa covers.** While it sounds simple, this step results in significant savings by reducing evaporation.
Estimated daily savings: 30 gallons.

INDOOR WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

- **Fix leaky toilets.** While a leaky toilet may be out of sight and out of mind, it is one of the biggest water wasters inside your home.
Estimated daily savings: 30-100+ gallons.
- **Replace older clothes washers with high-efficiency models.** Contact us to find out if you are eligible for a rebate.
Estimated daily savings: 15-50 gallons per load of laundry.
- **Shorten the duration of your shower by two minutes.** Idle time spent in the shower wastes water and costs you more on your water bill.
Estimated daily savings: 5 gallons.
- **Install aerators on kitchen and bathroom faucets.** The flow restrictors on the aerators will reduce the rate at which the water flows from the faucets.
Estimated daily savings: 4.7 gallons.

For more information: Contact our 24 hour call center at 1-800-999-4033, or visit www.gswater.com.