



BELLA VISTA WATER DISTRICT

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FACT SHEET - WATER CONSERVATION

97% of the earth's water is in our oceans and 2% is trapped in icecaps and glaciers. This leaves about 1% of the earth's water available for human consumption. It's easy to understand, then, that our domestic water supply is a manufactured product and the raw commodity is limited. Environmental and financial restrictions also limit the supply available at any given time. This means that our water supply has to go a long way towards satisfying all the competing interests: residential - including drinking and sanitation, manufacturing, agricultural, environmental, and recreational.

Conserving water makes good sense for those reasons stated above. Practically speaking, conserving water makes sense for the following reasons. Conserving water also conserves energy and can postpone or eliminate the need to build expensive capital projects such as additional water treatment capacity, pump stations, and storage facilities that will require ongoing maintenance. The efficient management of our natural resources is a necessity if we are to ensure an adequate supply of water for our needs.

Following are some water conservation suggestions:

Indoor Conservation:

1. Wash only full loads in the dishwasher. It takes the same amount of water to wash a half load of dishes as it does to wash a full load. Washing a half load wastes water, energy and money.
2. Scrape dishes clean instead of pre-rinsing them under the faucet.
3. Clean vegetables by washing them in a bowl of water, then reuse that water on plants.
4. Install low-flow shower heads. Low-flow shower heads can save up to eight gallons of water each minute the shower is used. That's more than 10,000 gallons per person annually.
5. Take shorter showers. Try limiting showers to the time it takes to soap up, wash down and rinse off. Turn off the water while you lather up, shampoo your hair or shave.
6. Don't waste cool water while waiting for hot water to arrive. Install a recirculation pump or collect cool water in a bucket and use it to water plants or for another purpose.
7. Replace older toilets with newer low-flow models that use significantly less water to flush.
8. Check for toilet tank leaks: A few drops of food coloring in your toilet tank will reveal a leak into the bowl. A leaking toilet can waste up to 21,000 gallons of water per year.
9. Wash full loads in the washing machine. If that's not possible, use the load selector to match the water level to load size.
10. Consider replacing older washing machines with more efficient models that use less water.

Outdoor Conservation:

1. Avoid irrigating during the heat of the day. Schedule irrigation and timers for early morning (before 6 am) or late evening (after 9 pm) to reduce water waste through evaporation and to avoid peak water and energy use times.
2. Routinely inspect outside plumbing and irrigation systems in operation. Replace broken sprinklers, worn nozzles and any leaking components, and adjust as needed. Position sprinklers so water lands on the lawn or garden, not on paved areas.
3. Irrigate long enough for the moisture to soak down to, but not beyond, the lower root zone. A light sprinkling can evaporate quickly and can encourage a shallow root system.
4. Consider installing a drip irrigation system that uses less water and is more effective at placing water closer to plant roots without encouraging undesirable weeds.
5. Add a layer of mulch around trees and plants to slow moisture evaporation and discourage weed growth and soil erosion
6. Landscape with drought-resistant trees and plants that require less water once established. Reduce lawn area. Lawns require the most water, about four feet of water per year.
7. Use a shut-off nozzle on garden hoses to prevent waste.
8. Consult with a local irrigation, crop or landscape specialist to learn about water saving techniques and how to use less water while also improving plant health.