

# Easy Ways to Save Water & Energy at Home

**Special Alert:** See the Special Alert on the backside for a list of prohibited water uses and fines for violations in this time of drought in California.

Did you know the average Californian uses 5,880 gallons of water a month? That's enough to fill a 15 x 4 foot round swimming pool! Due to the severe drought conditions in the state, Governor Brown has asked Californians to reduce their daily water usage by 20 percent - or at least 39 gallons per day.



Twenty-five percent of the energy we use at home goes to heat water for showers, dishes, and washing clothes. You can reduce your electricity or gas use by up to 5 percent a year by using less hot water and, depending on the type of hot water heater you have, **save up to \$25 on your gas bill or \$45 on your electric bill annually.**

**Use this worksheet to find easy ways you can reduce your daily water use by at least 39 gallons. Look for the house/leaf symbol for the actions that will save the most energy.**

KITCHEN 	
Activity	Daily Savings
<b>Use your dishwasher efficiently.</b> Save water and energy by washing full loads, choosing shorter wash cycles, and deactivating the booster heater if your dishwasher has one.	<b>Up to 15 Gallons</b>
<b>Install faucet aerators.</b> A faucet aerator reduces water flow to less than 1 gallon per minute while lowering water heating costs.	<b>2 Gallons</b>
<b>Think about the sink.</b> Fill the sink or a bowl with water instead of running the tap while doing dishes.	<b>10 Gallons</b>
BATHROOM 	
<b>Install low-flow showerheads.</b> Change out old showerheads with WaterSense®-labeled models and lower your water heating costs. 	<b>10 Gallons</b>
<b>Take shorter showers instead of baths.</b> A five-minute shower can use up to 25 gallons less water than a 10-minute shower or a bath which will lower your energy use too.	<b>23 Gallons</b>

LAUNDRY ROOM 		
<b>Do full loads of laundry in cold water.</b> With most washers, clothes will be just as clean and save you energy too.		<b>15 Gallons</b>
<b>Upgrade your clothes washer and dishwasher.</b> If you are in the market for a new clothes washer or dishwasher, consider buying an efficient, water-saving ENERGY STAR® model to reduce both water and energy use. Check to see if your utility offers a rebate before you buy!		<b>3.5 Gallons</b>
SAVE WATER AND ENERGY OUTSIDE TOO! 		
<b>Water landscape between 8 p.m. and 5 a.m.</b> Limit outdoor watering to just two times per week between 8 p.m. and 5 a.m. to reduce water use and evaporation.		<b>25 Gallons</b>
<b>Install a WaterSense-labeled irrigation controller.</b> It acts like a thermostat for your watering system by optimizing watering schedules. Replacing an old clock-timer controller will save you energy too.		<b>24 Gallons</b>
<b>Replace outdoor lights with CFLs or LEDs or consider using motion detectors or photo sensors.</b> Lights with motion detectors and photo sensors are only on when you need them, and you don't have to remember to turn them off.		<b>N/A</b>

### Special Alert: Prohibited Water Uses Due to Severe Drought

This is one of the hottest and driest years on record for California. On July 15 the Water Board adopted emergency regulations that prohibit some uses of water. Violation of these prohibited actions is punishable by a fine of up to \$500 for each day in which the violation occurs. See the Special Alert section on the backside for a list of prohibited water uses.

- The use of potable water for outdoor landscapes in a manner that causes runoff.
- The use of a hose without a shut-off nozzle to dispense potable water to wash a motor vehicle.
- The application of potable water to driveways and sidewalks.
- The use of potable water in a fountain or other decorative water feature, except where the water is part of a recirculating system.



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