

Water-saving Tips

Indoors

- 1. Take shorter showers.** A four-minute shower uses 20 to 40 gallons of water.
- 2. Turn off the tap.** While you wash your hands, your hair, or brush your teeth (each can save 150 gallons a month!).
- 3. Fill 'er up.** Always run full loads of laundry, but if you can't, adjust settings to the proper load size. When shopping for a new washing machine, remember front-loading models are more energy- and water-efficient, using 20 gallons of water a load vs. 40 gallons.
- 4. Fix it, but don't forget it.** Leaks can waste up to 5 gallons a day! Check for leaks on all hoses, faucets and connectors – fix 'em, but keep checking for leaks, too.
- 5. There's no such thing as "wastewater."** When you freshen your pet's water don't throw old water away, water plants with it. When waiting for shower water to heat up or washing fruits and veggies, collect the water and use it again elsewhere!

Outdoors

- 6. Re-route rainwater.** Install gutters and downspouts to direct rainwater to trees and shrubs. This saves water and reduces runoff.
- 7. Sweep driveways and sidewalks with a broom.** Hosing down your driveways and sidewalks is wasteful, and contributes to poor ocean water quality.
- 8. Follow best lawn practices.** If you have a lawn, let it go dormant in winter. You only have to water every 3 to 4 weeks; less, if it rains. Raise lawn mower blade to 1.5 to 2.0 inches. Tall grass shades roots and holds in more moisture than short grass.
- 9. Water wisely.** Water plants and grass at night or in the early morning to minimize evaporation. Water deeply and less frequently to encourage deep root growth and drought tolerance. Use a kitchen timer or your smart phone timer so you don't overwater.
- 10. Plant for our climate zone.** Plants adapted to our region's climate and soil require a lot less water and maintenance, and could save you up to half of your household water use!



The Coalition invites you to consider the following:

Water in the Ventura River Watershed is a precious resource we can't afford to waste. Rainfall IS our water supply and it either soaks into our soil and groundwater basins or collects in Lake Casitas.

The average American home can waste 11,000 gallons of water a year. As each of us finds ways to use water more efficiently in our homes and yards, we're helping ourselves and our community—save water, save energy and improve air quality.

It takes a lot of energy to move, treat and deliver water to our homes and then more energy to heat water up. In hotter areas like the Ojai Valley, up to 70% of our water usage is outdoors. This makes turning on our hose an energy event, as well as a water event!

And a reminder: most of our electricity comes from burning fossil fuels that are being rapidly depleted. Efficient use and conservation of water preserves many precious resources.

Water-saving Tips adapted from the Surfrider Foundation's (surfrider.org) *10 Things You Can Do for Clean Water*.
