

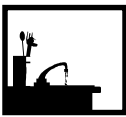
50 ways to save water

Suggestions from the
Central Sierra Watershed Committee



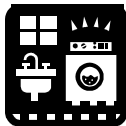
In the bathroom

1. Check toilets for leaks.
2. Don't use toilet for ash tray or wastebasket.
3. Take shorter showers (5 minute maximums).
4. Install water-saving, low-flow shower heads.
5. Turn off tap while brushing teeth or shaving.
6. Try a "Navy" shower: Wet down, turn off water while you scrub, rinse quickly.
7. Collect water for pets, plants while you wait for hot water in shower.
8. Place container in toilet tank to reduce flush.
9. When bathing limit water level to 3 inches.
10. When replacing toilet, look for low-flow models.



In the kitchen

11. Use full loads only in automatic dishwasher.
12. Scrape dishes, do not rinse before dishwasher placement.
13. Wash/rinse dishes in a pan or sink of water.
14. Keep bottled water in refrigerator.
15. Rinse vegetables in sink or pan of water.
16. Flush scraps using cold, not hot, water.
17. Compost food scrap; avoid disposal use.



In the Laundry room

18. For hand laundering, put stopper in wash tub.
19. Use full loads only in the washing machine.
20. Use water-level adjustment on machine.
21. Use cold water.
22. On new machines, look for adjustable temperature and level controls.
23. Wrap hot water pipes.



Outdoors

24. Grow lawns to 3 inches: cut less frequently.
25. Water lawns twice a week at the most.
26. Aerate lawns to allow water to reach deep roots.
27. Deep soak lawns using low flow applications.
28. Water at night.
29. Make sure irrigation system systems lands on lawns, not hard surface.
30. Use drought-tolerant trees and plants.
31. Put mulch around plants to slow evaporation.
32. Sweep driveways, sidewalks, avoid water use.
33. Teach children that sprinklers are not toys.
34. Check/repair leaks in pipes, hoses, and faucets.
35. Use bucket, shut off nozzle when washing car.
36. Group plants with similar watering requirements.
37. Hand water gardens.
38. If "gray water is allowed, use approved systems.
39. Dig basins around plants to avoid runoff.
40. Keep garden free of weeds, which rob water.
41. Don't water if it rains.
42. Put sprinklers on timers.
43. Reduce lawn area.
44. Wait until fall, winter to start new gardens.
45. Use compost, mulch in planting areas.
46. Use a soil probe to determine when to water.
47. Cover spas, pools to slow evaporation.
48. Convert fountains to recirculating or disconnect.
49. Convert to drip or micro sprinkler system.
50. Contact local agency for more tips.

The CSWC meets on the last Wednesday of every month at the Sierra Ambulance Office, 40755 Winding Way, Oakhurst, at 9 AM, and is open to the public. For information, please email leavesofgrass@netptc.net.

The mission of the Central Sierra Watershed Committee is to promote the quality, quantity, and aesthetic values of our water resources through the conservation and restoration of our watersheds.

CSWC members include: Interested citizens, ranchers, homeowners; local Native American tribes; North Fork Community Development Council; Chowchilla-Redtop and Coarsegold Resource Conservation Districts; Chowchilla City Council; Upper Merced River Watershed Council; California Water Institute; Sierra Foothill Conservancy; Madera Irrigation District; Yosemite/Sequoia Resource Conservation & Development Council; US Army Corps of Engineers; Regional Water Quality Control Board; Madera County Environmental Health & Engineering; CA Department of Water Resources; Madera County Board of Supervisors; Madera Agriculture Commissioner; San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District; Natural Resource Conservation Service; and the United States Forest Service.

Note: The contents of this article do not necessarily reflect the views of the State.