

San José Municipal Water's Tips to Save Money and Water!

Save 1,500 gallons – 2 hundred cubic feet – a month to see savings with these easy actions:



In the Kitchen save 750 gallons:

- Peel and clean vegetables in a large bowl of water instead of under running water.
- Fill your sink or basin when washing and rinsing dishes.
- Only run the dishwasher when it's full.
- Only use the garbage disposal when necessary (composting is a great alternative).



In the Laundry Room save 750 gallons:

- Only run full loads of laundry.



In the bathroom save 1,500 gallons:

- Take shorter showers.
- Turn off the water to brush teeth, shave, and soap up in the shower. Fill the sink to shave.
- Repair leaky toilets. Add 12 drops of food coloring into the tank, and if color appears in the bowl one hour later, your toilet is leaking.
- Collect water in a bucket when heating up the shower/bath water to use later for watering plants.
- The biggest source of indoor water use is from toilets. If the bowl water is yellow, let it mellow – if it's brown, flush it down.



In the yard save 1,500 gallons:

- With rain still in the forecast, adjust your irrigation timer and scale back or stop watering.
- Irrigation is the biggest source of water use at a home.
- Lawns can survive for weeks without being watered.
- Halt lawn irrigation completely to save the most on your bill.
- For other types of plants or irrigation tips, check the South Bay Green Gardens website.
- If the average sized lawn in the U.S. is watered for 20 minutes every day for 7 days, it's like running the shower constantly for 4 days or taking more than 800 showers!

Other tips:

- **Fix water leaks as soon as possible** – Fix visible leaks within 5 working days. Visit our leaks page to find out how to detect water leaks and fix them. Household leaks account for 10,000+ gallons of water for the average U.S. family per year!
- **Sweep hard surfaces** – Use a broom instead of a hose to clean hard surfaces and save.
- **Use automatic shut-off nozzles** – Use hoses with a nozzle that shuts off automatically when the handle is released. This helps you aim and control the water and can save many gallons.
- **Washing your car** – Use a bucket of water to wash the car. Or better yet - let mother nature wash your car when it rains.

*Estimates are based on average consumption for a family of four people for one month. 1 HCF = 748 gallon.