

Water Use Survey Checklist

Follow these water saving tips to aide in your conservation efforts and to assist in lowering your monthly water bill.



INDOORS

- Check for leaks by listening for the toilet “running” when it hasn’t recently been flushed or use a dye table. (Contact VCWD’s Customer Service to request a dye tablet.)
- Check faucets, shower heads, pipes under sinks, and around toilets for leaks.
- Convert your toilets to High Efficiency models that use 1.28 gallons per flush.
- Convert shower heads to low-flow models (maximum 2.5 gallons per minute).
- Check pipes to washing machine and dishwasher for leaks.
- Convert your washing machine to a certified high efficiency model.

OUTDOORS

Outdoor water use is responsible for approximately 60% of water consumption.

- Check irrigation timer for duration and frequency of watering. For help, visit www.bewaterwise.com.
- Periodically run sprinklers and watch them to see if any need to be adjusted or repaired. Common problems include broken or leaning sprinkler heads, rotors not rotating, misting instead of spraying, spray patterns blocked by plant material or clogged nozzles.
- Look at area after watering to check for runoff. If there is runoff, adjustment or repair is needed.
- Retrofit your irrigation system with smart controllers, more efficient sprinkler heads or drip irrigation. See www.bewaterwise.com for rebate information.
- Organize plants by water need and set timers for those under shade to be watered less.
- Remove small and impractical patches of grass and install drought tolerant, California native plants that require less water and maintenance.
- If your landscape doesn’t look healthy, don’t assume it needs more water. Check into aerating, soil health and water distribution from sprinklers.
- Use drop irrigation systems for bedded plants, trees and shrubs. This will help prevent evaporation.
- Install a rain shut-off device on your irrigation controller to prevent watering in the rain.

Available Rebates

For Information on Available Rebates Visit: www.vcwd.org



WASHING
MACHINES



TOILETS



IRRIGATION
CONTROLLERS

Water Conservation Tips

IRRIGATION

- If your sprinklers overspray onto the sidewalks, patio, driveway, or street, adjust the spray pattern, relocate sprinkler heads or change spray nozzles.
- If your sprinkler heads are misting, this indicates a high water pressure problem. Adjust or install a new pressure regulator. Set pressure per the recommendation of the sprinkler manufacturer, usually between 40 and 50 pounds per square inch (psi).
- Trim back vegetation or raise the sprinkler heads as needed to prevent spray patterns from becoming blocked. This will increase the uniformity of application.
- Broken sprinkler heads should be replaced as soon as possible or install a temporary cap. Replace the broken sprinkler and nozzle with one that matches those on the existing station run.
- Mixing types or brands of sprinkler nozzles or heads wastes water. Precipitation rates and performance vary greatly between manufacturers. Sprinkler heads on the same station run must match.
- Are your high and low-water-use plants mixed together on the same station run? Group plants with similar water needs on the same station.
- Add mulch around your shrubs, trees and flowers. Providing a 2-inch layer of mulch will substantially reduce water use and dry grass. Mulch also increases water infiltration into the soil.
- Excessive thatch buildup in your lawn inhibits water infiltration into the soil and is usually caused by overwatering or over-fertilization.
- Is your soil saturated after only watering for a few minutes? Does water run off your slopes? You probably have a clay soil, and water is absorbed very slowly. Shorten your watering times and use multiple start times to allow the water to soak in to avoid runoff.
- Use drip-irrigation systems for bedded plants, trees and shrubs, or turn the flat, green soaking hoses upside down so the holes are on the bottom. This will help prevent evaporation.
- Water lawns early in the morning during the hotter summer months. Otherwise, much of the water used can simply evaporate. Watering by hand-held hose or with a 5-gallon bucket is allowed any time, but water waste is prohibited at all times. Water waste occurs when watering outside of approved time periods and allowing water to run onto the pavement.

INDOORS

- When brushing your teeth, turn the water off until it is time to rinse.
- Use a pan of water (or place a stopper in the sink) for washing and rinsing pots, pans, dishes, and cooking implements rather than turning on the water faucet each time a rinse is needed.
- Wash only a full load when using an automatic washing machine (32-59 gallons are required per load).
- Take shorter showers, or turn off water while washing and back on again to rinse.

More Information

Visit Us Online: www.vcwd.org or Call (626)338-7301