

# Conserve Water

**2009 could be the worst drought year in California's recorded history.**

**Californians are being asked to voluntarily reduce their per capita water consumption by 20% by 2020.**



## Ten Easy Ways to Save Water:

1. Turn off the water while brushing your teeth. Rinse using a cup of water. A standard faucet uses 2 gallons of water for every minute it is running.
2. Keep a container of water in the refrigerator rather than running tap water for a cool drink. The same for hot water, heat in a microwave, instead of running the tap.
3. Replace worn washers in leaky faucets. A faucet leaking a slow steady drip – 100 drops per minute – wastes 350 gallons per month. A faucet leaking a small stream wastes 2,000 to 2,700 gallons of water per month.
4. Cut your shower short. Standard shower heads are one of the biggest water consumers in your house. If you replace your shower head with a low-flow version you can cut your shower's water consumption by 50%.
5. Wear jeans one extra time before washing. A typical top-loading washer uses about 40 gallons of water per load, so reduce your number of loads per week. Try to run only when full and also minimize the fill level (most machines are capable of being reset).
6. Don't wash those dishes by hand. Using a water efficient dishwasher consumes only 6 gallons of water per load. Hand washing takes 8 gallons or more.
7. For a few dollars purchase 10-gallon paint buckets and put them near your sinks. Collect waste water (tap running) to water house and outdoor plants.
8. When prepping in the kitchen, clean fruits and vegetables in a water bath, saving the dirty water in a bucket. Even cooking water from pasta can be saved for reuse.
9. Put food coloring in your toilet tank to check for leaks; and fix. Install high efficiency toilets (for a rebate see below). Older 5.5 gallon-per-flush toilets use as much as 13,000 gallons per year, while an ultra-flush toilet uses only 1.6 gallons per flush.
10. Learn to read your water meter and get a free, home water evaluation (see below).

## Freebies:

- Find out where you are wasting water. The Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) and East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) both offer free, on-site, indoor/outdoor water surveys to their customers.
- Both CCWD and EBMUD also offer clothes washer and toilet rebates and free: audit kits (EBMUD only), dye tablets, water efficient shower heads, faucet aerators, and hose nozzles. <http://www.ccwater.com/> <http://www.ebmud.com/>
- Also visit both for landscape water saving tips.