

Outdoor Water-Saving Tips



- Layer mulch around trees and plants to reduce evaporation.
- Use the **cycle and soak method**. Reduce runoff and increase percolation. Water for three 4-minute cycles with 1 hour soak time between each cycle. This method allows enough time for the water to soak into the ground and reach plant roots.
- Don't water on windy days. Water will go everywhere, except where it is needed.

- Use drip irrigation, emitters, or bubblers for shrubs and trees to allow water to flow slowly to the roots. Direct downspouts toward shrubs and trees.

- Only water plants when they need it. More plants die from over-watering than from under-watering. Use a soil moisture meter and water when the needle points in between 'moist' and 'dry' or use a screwdriver to test soil moisture. If goes in easily, don't water.



- Group plants with the same watering needs together to get the most out of your watering time.

- It's all about the right amount of water at the right time. Walk across your lawn, if you leave footprints, it's time to water.

- Aerate your lawn. Punch holes in your lawn about six inches apart so water will reach the roots rather than run off the surface.

Xeriscape & Native Plants

Xeriscape is a water-efficient, sustainable landscaping method that includes native and drought-tolerant plants. 'Xeri' does not mean "zero" but comes from the Greek word 'xeros' meaning dry.

The seven basic principles of Xeriscape are:

1. Planning and design
2. Soil analysis
3. Appropriate plant selection
4. Practical turf planning
5. Efficient irrigation
6. Mulching
7. Maintenance

Planting a beautiful Xeriscape can attract hummingbirds, butterflies, and beneficial insects while enhancing the value, comfort and appearance of your property. Need some ideas? Visit the **DWP's Xeriscape Demonstration Garden** on Fox Farm Road or our website: bldwp.com. Be sure to pick up a copy of the Bear Valley Xeriscape Guide for more detailed information.

Go Native! According to the California Native Plant Society, "landscaping and gardening with native plants can cut residential water use from 60 to 90% over conventional gardening." Big Bear native plants are adapted to our mountain's cold temperatures and dry climate.

Stop by local nurseries to find **Big Bear native plants**.



DWP Water Use Regulations

- Water must be used reasonably and productively at all times.
- No outdoor watering between 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., April 1st through November 1st, annually.
- Follow an odd/even schedule. If your address ends in an odd number, water on odd calendar dates and even addresses may water on even calendar dates.
- No hose washing of paved areas or any other surface, including patios, buildings and structures, except when needed to protect public health and safety (must obtain water permit from the DWP).
- Water shall not run off properties onto streets.
- Automatic shut-off nozzles are required on all hand-held hoses.
- Washing of vehicles, trailers, or boats must be done using a bucket and a hose equipped with an automatic shut-off nozzle.
- All water leaks must be repaired once detected.
- All irrigation systems must be shut off and winterized November 1st through April 1st, annually.
- Landscape plans are required to be submitted to the DWP for approval prior to installation of any turf or landscapes over 1,000 square feet.
- Turf installations are limited to 1,000 square feet. If you already have turf, you may install additional turf for a total of 1,000 sq. ft. (existing and new).
- Automatic irrigation controllers are required on landscapes greater than 1,000 square feet.
- Water features must use re-circulating systems.



Bear Valley Water Use & Conservation Guide



Additional Resources:



saveourh2o.org



cuwcc.org



a4we.org



epa.gov/WaterSense

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BigBearWater

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Why Conserve Water?



Water is our most precious natural resource. How it is managed today will affect nearly every aspect of our future. Taking steps to conserve and use water more efficiently helps ensure that City of Big Bear Lake, Department of Water (DWP) customers have a reliable water supply for the future.

Here in the Bear Valley, our water supply is limited since it only comes from



underground aquifers that are dependent on precipitation for replenishment. Conserving, using water efficiently, and eliminating wasteful practices stretches our water supply, helping to build a better defense against drought years and delaying the need for new sources of supply.

This guide is aimed at helping our customers save water and money without making big changes in their lives. Many of the simple actions you can take, such as taking shorter showers and adjusting your irrigation timer, are free, easy to do, and can save you money.

Following the tips in this guide will help you use water more efficiently and conserve our water supply.



DWP Conservation Programs

Current conservation programs include TOILET REBATES, TURF BUYBACK, and INDOOR PLUMBING and OUTDOOR IRRIGATION WATER SURVEYS.

We also offer free LOW-FLOW SHOWERHEADS and FAUCET AERATORS, TOILET LEAK DETECTORS, SOIL MOISTURE METERS and SHUT-OFF HOSE NOZZLES (as available).

QUESTIONS OR NEED MORE INFORMATION? Please contact the Conservation Department for program qualification requirements or to schedule a water survey appointment.

DWP CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

Phone—(909) 866-5050 x 202

Email—conservation@bldwp.com

Website—www.bldwp.com

Indoor Water Use

Over the past few decades, increasingly efficient plumbing fixtures have led to decreased indoor water consumption. Current federal plumbing standards were last updated in 1994, but many available plumbing fixtures are more efficient than current standards. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has a program that labels these products, called WaterSense. This program makes it easy to find and select water-efficient products and ensures consumer confidence about their efficiency with a label based on independent certification. In fact, in January 2014, the State of California updated its plumbing fixture standards to match WaterSense specifications. Current plumbing fixture standards are summarized as follows:



	Federal Standards	WaterSense/ California Standards
Toilets	1.6 gpf (gallons per flush)	1.28 gpf (gallons per flush)
Faucets	2.2 gpm (gallons per minute)	1.5 gpm (bathroom)/ 1.8 gpm (kitchen)
Showerheads	2.5 gpm (gallons per minute)	2.0 gpm (gallons per minute)

The DWP offers free kitchen and bathroom aerators that use 1.5 gpm or less and showerheads that are 2.0 gpm or less, plus a toilet rebate program!

The table below summarizes how plumbing standards have decreased indoor water use in single-family homes (based on average household size of 2.5 people).

Average Household Indoor Water Use (in gallons)

	Homes Built Before 1995	Homes Built After 2001	High-Efficiency New Homes
Toilet	45	28	16
Clothes Washer	39	29	12
Shower	31	30	34
Faucet	27	25	18
Leaks	22	20	19
Other	7	3	1
Bathtub	3	3	7
Dishwasher	3	2	2
Total Household	177	140	109

Source: DeOreo (2011) Analysis of Water Use in New Single Family Homes

By installing water-efficient plumbing fixtures and regularly checking for leaks, households can reduce daily water consumption up to 38% or 68 gallons per day, that's 24,820 gallons per year!

Indoor Water-Saving Tips

Indoor water use not only depends on flow rates and flush volumes of plumbing fixtures, but also depends on how you use water.

- **Shorten your shower time.** Depending on the flow rate of your showerhead, cutting your shower time by 2 to 5 minutes can save 5 to 12.5 gallons per shower.
- **Turn off the faucet while brushing your teeth, lathering your hands, or shaving** and save up to 500 gallons per week.
- **Fix leaks right away** and save hundreds of gallons per month. Tighten faucets and replace worn washers. Flappers inside toilet tanks are a common cause of toilet leaks; replacing them is easy. The DWP offers free toilet leak detectors.
- **Run the dishwasher only when fully loaded.** Scrape food off dishes instead of rinsing them. Newer dishwasher models do not require pre-rinsing dishes.
- **When washing dishes by hand, don't let the water run.** Fill one dish tub with soapy water and the other with rinse water.
- **Soak pots and pans** instead of letting the water run while you scrape them clean.
- **Place food in a bowl of water to thaw** instead of using running water to thaw food.
- **Match the water level to the size of the load when doing laundry.** Consider buying a front-loading clothes washer and save up to 20 gallons per load.
- **To have cold water, keep a pitcher in the fridge** instead of running the tap. Use one drinking glass per day to cut down on dishes. Dump leftover water in houseplants instead of down the drain.
- **Wash produce in a sink or pan that is partially filled with water** instead of running the tap. Then use that water to water houseplants.

Are My Plumbing Fixtures Water-Efficient (Low-Flow)?

TOILETS—any toilet stamped with 1.6 or 1.28 gpf is low-flow. Look for the stamp behind the seat cover (in between the toilet bowl and tank) or look for a manufacturing date under the tank lid or on the inside walls of the tank. All toilets manufactured 1994 or later are low-flow.

FAUCETS & SHOWERHEADS—any faucet stamped with 2.2 or less or showerhead stamped with 2.5 gpm or less is low-flow. Typical locations for the stamp is on faucet aerators (the tip of the faucet) or on the face of showerheads, but manufacturers put the stamps in different locations. If you cannot find a stamp at all, the fixture is probably not low-flow. You can always check the flow rate by letting the water run into a 1-gallon bucket. If it takes less than 24 seconds to fill the bucket, then the fixture is not low-flow. Remember, if the faucet or shower has been replaced since 1994, it will be low-flow.