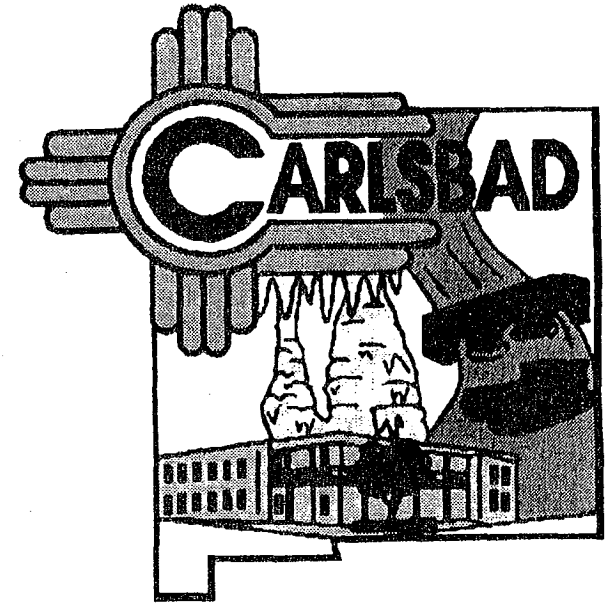


100 Ways to Save Water

1. There are a number of ways to save water, and they all start with you.
2. When washing dishes by hand, don't let the water run while rinsing. Fill one sink with wash water and the other with rinse water.
3. Evaporative coolers require a seasonal maintenance checkup. For more efficient cooling, check your evaporative cooler annually.
4. Check your sprinkler system frequently and adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk, or street.
5. Run your washing machine and dishwasher only when they are full and you could save 1000 gallons a month.
6. Avoid planting turf in areas that are hard to water such as steep inclines and isolated strips along sidewalks and driveways.
7. Install covers on pools and spas and check for leaks around your pumps.
8. Use the garbage disposal less often.
9. Plant during the spring or fall when the watering requirements are lower.
10. Keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator instead of running the tap for cold drinks, so that every drop goes down you not the drain.
11. Check your water meter and bill to track your water usage.
12. Always water during the early morning hours, when temperatures are cooler, to minimize evaporation.
13. Wash your produce in the sink or a pan that is partially filled with water instead of running water from the tap.
14. Use a layer of organic mulch around plants to reduce evaporation and save hundreds of gallons of water a year.
15. Use a broom instead of a hose to clean your driveway and sidewalk and save up to 80 gallons of water every time.
16. If your shower can fill a one-gallon bucket in less than 20 seconds, then replace it with a water-efficient showerhead.
17. Collect the water you use for rinsing produce and reuse it to water houseplants.
18. If water pools or runs off your lawn, water in several short sessions rather than one long one. This will allow the water to be better absorbed.
19. We're more likely to notice leaky faucets indoors, but don't forget to check outdoor faucets, pipes, and hoses for leaks.
20. Periodically check your pool for leaks if you have an automatic refilling device.
21. Only water your lawn when needed. You can tell this by simply walking across your lawn. If you leave footprints, it's time to water.
22. When you shop for a new appliance, keep in mind that one offering several different cycles will be more water and energy-efficient.
23. Time your shower to keep it under 5 minutes. You'll save up to 1000 gallons a month.
24. Install low-volume toilets.
25. Adjust your lawn mower to a higher setting. Longer grass will reduce the loss of water to evaporation.
26. When you clean your fish tank, use the water you've drained on your plants. The water is rich in nitrogen and phosphorus, providing you with a free and effective fertilizer.
27. Water small areas of grass by hand to avoid waste.
28. Put food coloring in your toilet tank. If it seeps into the toilet bowl, you have a leak. It's easy to fix, and you can save more than 600 gallons a month.
29. Plug the bathtub before turning the water on, then adjust the temperature as the tub fills up.
30. Use porous materials for walkways and patios to keep water in your yard and the tub fills up.
31. Collect and use rain water for watering your garden. (Check to make sure this is legal in your area.)
32. Designate one glass for your drinking water each day. This will cut down on the number of times you run your dishwasher.
33. Instead of using a hose or a sink to get rid of paints, motor oil, and pesticides, dispose of them properly by recycling or sending them to a hazardous waste site.
34. Install a rain shut-off device on your automatic sprinklers to eliminate unnecessary watering.
35. Don't use running water to thaw food.
36. Choose a water-efficient drip irrigation for your trees, shrubs, and flowers. Watering roots is very effective, be careful not to over water.
37. Grab a wrench and fix that leaky faucet. It's simple, inexpensive, and can save 140 gallons a week.
38. Cut back on the amount of grass in your yard by planting shrubs and ground cover or landscaping with rock.
39. When doing laundry, match the water level to the size of the load.
40. Teach your children to turn the faucets off tightly after each use.
41. Remember to check your sprinkler system valves periodically for leaks and keep the heads in good shape.
42. Before you lather up, install a low-flow showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save your family more than 500 gallons a week.
43. Soak your pots and pans instead of letting the water run while you scrape them clean.
44. Don't water your lawn on windy days. After all, sidewalks and driveways don't need water.
45. Water your plants deeply but less frequently to create healthier and stronger landscapes.
46. Make sure you know where your master water shut-off valve is located. This could save gallons of water and damage to your home if a pipe were to burst.
47. When watering grass on steep slopes, use a soaker hose to prevent wasteful runoff.
48. To get the most from your watering time, group your plants according to their water needs.
49. Remember to weed your lawn and garden regularly. Weeds compete with other plants for nutrients, light and water.

50. While fertilizers promote plant growth, they also increase water consumption. Apply the minimum amount of fertilizer needed.
51. Avoid installing ornamental water features unless the water is being recycled.
52. Use a commercial car wash that recycles water.
53. Don't buy recreational water toys that require a constant flow of water.
54. Turn off the water while you brush your teeth and save 4 gallons a minute. That's 200 gallons a week for a family of four.
55. Buy a rain gauge to track how much rain or irrigation your yard receives.
56. Encourage your school system and local government to help develop and promote a water conservation ethic among children and adults.
57. Teach your family how to shut off your automatic watering systems so anyone who is home can turn sprinklers off when a storm is approaching.
58. Set a kitchen timer when watering your lawn or garden with a hose.
59. Make sure your toilet flapper doesn't stick open after flushing.
60. Make sure there are aerators on all of your faucets.
61. Next time you add or replace a flower or shrub, choose a low water use plant for year-round landscape color and save up to 550 gallons each year.
62. Install an instant water heater on your kitchen sink so you don't have to let the water run while it heats up. This will also reduce heating costs for your household.
63. Use a grease pencil to mark the water level of your pool at the skimmer. Check the mark 24 hours later. Your pool should lose no more than 1/4 inch each day.
64. Spot spray or remove weeds as they appear.
65. Use a screwdriver as a soil probe to test soil moisture. If it goes in easily, don't water. Proper lawn watering can save thousands of gallons of water annually.
66. Install a drip irrigation system around your trees and shrubs to water more efficiently.
67. Mow your lawn as infrequently as possible. Mowing puts your lawn under additional stress, causing it to require more water.
68. Don't use the sprinklers just to cool off or for play. Running through water from a hose or sprinkler wastes gallons of water.
69. Make sure your swimming pools, fountains, and ponds are equipped with recirculating pumps.
70. Bathe your young children together.
71. Direct downspouts or gutters toward shrubs or trees.
72. Winterize outdoors spigots to avoid pipes from bursting or freezing.
73. Insulate hot water pipes so you don't have to run as much water to get hot water to the faucet.
74. Wash your car on the grass. This will water your lawn at the same time.
75. Drop your tissue in the trash instead of flushing it and save gallons every time.
76. If you have an evaporative air conditioner, direct the water drain to a flower bed, tree, or your lawn.
77. Make suggestions to your employer to save water (and dollars) at work.
78. Support projects that use reclaimed waste water for irrigation and other uses.
79. Use a hose nozzle and turn off the water while you wash your car and save more than 100 gallons.
80. Encourage your friends and neighbors to be part of a water-conscious community.
81. Install a toilet dam or bottle filled with water in your toilet tank to cut down on the amount of water used for each flush. Be sure these devices do not interfere with operating parts.
82. Install water softening systems only when necessary. Save water and salt by running the minimum number of regenerations necessary to maintain water softness.
83. Wash clothes only when you have a full load and save up to 600 gallons each month.
84. Leave lower branches on trees and shrubs and allow leaf litter to accumulate on top of the soil. This keeps the soil cooler and reduces evaporation.
85. Pick-up the phone and report significant water losses from broken pipes, open hydrants and errant sprinklers to the property owner or your water management district.
86. If your grass is brown, it's not dead, it's just dormant. Dormant grass only needs to be watered every three weeks. When the rain begins, your grass will turn green again.
87. Start a compost pile. Using compost when you plant adds water-holding organic matter to the soil.
88. Use sprinklers that throw big drops of water close to the ground. Smaller drops of water and mist often evaporate before they hit the ground.
89. Listen for dripping faucets and toilets that flush themselves. Fixing a leak can save 500 gallons each month.
90. More plants die from over-watering than from under-watering. Be sure only to water plants when necessary.
91. Cook food in as little water as possible. This will also retain more of the nutrients.
92. Adjust your watering schedule to the season. Water your summer lawn every third day and your winter lawn every fifth day.
93. Turn the water off while you shampoo and condition your hair and you can save more than 50 gallons a week.
94. Bathe your pets outdoors in an area in need of water.
95. Choose new water-saving appliances, like washing machines that save up to 20 gallons per load.
96. Water only as rapidly as the soil can absorb the water.
97. Aerate your lawn. Punch holes in your lawn about six inches apart so water will reach the roots rather than run off the surface.
98. Select the proper size pans for cooking. Large pans require more cooking water than may be necessary.
99. Place an empty tuna can on your lawn to catch and measure the water output of your sprinklers. For lawn watering advice, contact your local conservation office.
100. Turn off the water while you shave and you can save more than 100 gallons a week.



An
IMPORTANT
message
from the
City of Carlsbad
Water Department

**LEAK DETECTION
& CONSERVATION TIPS**

LEAK DETECTION

Whose responsibility is it to fix leaks?





That depends on where the leak is located. The Water Department is responsible for leaks on the street side of the water meter and in the meter pit. Leaks from the connection to the water meter to the home, as well as leaks inside the home are the responsibility of the customer. It is very important to repair leaks as quickly as possible. Ignoring leaks can waste a great deal of water, cause significant property damage and can be costly to the consumer. Quickly addressing leaks will save water and money.

Check for leaking toilets

Leaking toilets are the number one source of wasted water in the home. A leaky toilet tank wastes between 300 gallons (slow leak) and 60,000 gallons (running toilet) per month. To detect a slow leak, put food coloring in the toilet tank and wait 15 minutes without flushing. If the water in the bowl turns color, your toilet tank is leaking. Replace the parts inside your toilet tank. Repair kits are inexpensive and are available at most home improvement stores. The Water Department recommends you perform this test at least twice a year. Catching a toilet leak at its earliest stage can save a lot of water and will keep you from pouring your money down the drain. For additional information on toilet maintenance and repair, we suggest a visit to <http://www.toiletology.com/index.shtml>.

Check for leaky faucets, showers and hoses

Worn plumbing fixtures waste a great deal of water and can be costly to the consumer. Check faucets and hose connections (i.e. at your washing machine) frequently. The table top right illustrates the potential water loss from leaky faucets:

Slow Leak	Steady Drip	Slow Stream	Steady Stream
			
450 gallons per month	750 gallons per month	3,000 gallons per month	12,000 gallons per month

Check for Underground Leaks

An underground water leak due to a broken pipe or faulty coupling can be very costly because the water loss is not always easy to spot. Careful attention to the signs of a water leak can help minimize costly water leaks. The table below illustrates the potential water loss from broken underground pipes:

A Leak This Size	...Wastes This Much Water...
1/32"	3,600 Gals./Month
1/16"	10,800 Gals./Month
1/8"	36,000 Gals./Month
3/16"	199,000 Gals./Month
1/4"	340,000 Gals./Month

The following tips may help you to identify underground leaks as quickly as possible:

1. **Be aware of your normal consumption patterns.** The most common symptom of an underground water leak is consistent/worsening high consumption. One of the best ways to catch a leak quickly is to pay attention to your bill and investigate unusually high consumption.

2. **Search for unusual soggy spots in the general vicinity of your water line.** Unusual wet spots not caused by precipitation or watering is often a sign of an underground water leak. Check the area carefully. Often the effects of an underground leak may surface several yards away from the actual leak.

Call the Customer Service Department

When the above measures fail to identify the cause of unusually high consumption, customers should report the problem to the customer service department. A Water Department representative can be dispatched to see if water is still flowing through the meter when all faucets are closed. If water continues to pass through the meter, you may have a leak.

1. **Never open your own meter box.** Opening the meter box can damage the touch-read meter reading equipment. Improperly closed lids can also create a hazard. Always let Water Department personnel open the meter box. (Customer cut-off on customer side)
2. **Close your master valve.** If water passes through your meter when the master valve is closed and functioning properly, you probably have an underground leak between the meter and your master valve. If you are unable to locate and repair the leak yourself, you may want to consult a plumber.
3. **Check for other inside leaks.** If water does not pass through your meter when the master valve is closed, but resumes when only the master valve is open and all faucets are closed, you probably have an undiscovered inside leak. If you are unable to locate and repair the leak yourself, you may want to consult a plumber.