



CONSERVE WATER

TIPS ON HOW TO SAVE WATER AND SAVE MONEY



CITY WATER USE RESTRICTIONS

Background – In response to the past drought and the State’s water conservation requirements, the City adopted an ordinance in June of 2015 amending the Downey Municipal Code related to water use and conservation.



City Water Use Restrictions contained in this municipal code update are summarized below.

Landscape Irrigation

- ◆ Potable water irrigation limited to 7 p.m. to 8 a.m. PST; Exceptions made for hand-held watering containers, drip irrigation, or adjusting/repairing irrigation systems; No use allowed during rainfall
- ◆ Recycled water irrigation permitted any day
- ◆ Potable water irrigation limited to 6 minutes per irrigation station or location
- ◆ Potable water irrigation no more than 2 days per week Oct to Apr and 3 days per week May to Sep



- ◆ Irrigation days are Tue, Thur, and/or Sat for street addresses ending in even numbers; Mon, Wed, and/or Fri for street addresses ending in odd numbers
- ◆ No irrigation runoff from landscaped areas from incorrectly directed or maintained sprinklers or excessive watering

Exterior Washing

- ◆ Washing of buildings, facilities, equipment, autos, trucks, trailers, boats, airplanes, and other mobile equipment with potable water is prohibited except with bucket or hose with shut-off nozzle

- ◆ Washing permitted any time on the immediate premises of a commercial car wash
- ◆ No wash down of sidewalks, driveways, parking areas, patios, or hardscape areas except to alleviate fire, sanitation, or health hazards



Ornamental/Recreational

- ◆ Filling/refilling of pool/spas is discouraged and only allowed 9:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.
- ◆ Use of potable water in decorative fountains and features (ponds) is prohibited except when recirculating systems are used

Other/Leaks

- ◆ No serving water at restaurants unless by request
- ◆ Hotel/motel guests to have option of washing towels/linens daily; Option must be posted
- ◆ Leaks shall be repaired as soon as discovered and not allowed to continue more than 48 hrs

WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

Landscape Irrigation – Outdoor landscaping can consume 50% or more of water used at a property. Focus on reducing evaporation, eliminating runoff, and only watering as much as needed.

- ◆ Water your lawn and garden in the early morning or late evening to reduce water lost to evaporation and exposure to wind
- ◆ Reduce the days and length of time that you water your landscaping; Most landscaping only needs watering 2-3 days per week and 6 minutes per cycle; Possibly less during winter
- ◆ Use drip and microspray irrigation where possible and consider drought resistant native landscaping



- ◆ Best time to plant natives is in the fall/winter
- ◆ Use organic mulch around trees and plants to reduce water evaporation and discourage weed growth
- ◆ Install a smart irrigation controller that adjusts watering based on weather, soil type, amount of shade, and type of landscaping
- ◆ If using a standard controller, install a rain sensor or turn off sprinklers when it rains
- ◆ Maximize the amount of water delivered to your landscaping by checking your irrigation system to prevent overspray, replace broken sprinkler heads, and repair leaks routinely



- ◆ Rotating sprinkler nozzles can result in 20% less water use than conventional spray heads
- ◆ Plant with finished compost to add nutrients and water holding organic matter to soil

Pools, Spas, and Ponds – Due to the automatic fill devices on many pools, spas, and ponds, leaks can go undetected resulting in significant water waste.

- ◆ Check pools, spas, and ponds for leaks
- ◆ Turn off the automatic fill device, place a weighted bucket filled with water to the same level as the pool/pond on a step, and determine if the water level in the pool/pond is dropping faster which would indicate a leak.



- ◆ Alternatively, use a grease pencil to mark the pool water level at the skimmer. Check the mark 24 hours later to see if you have a leak

Sidewalks, Driveways, Parking, Patios - Using water to wash down hardscape or paved areas of any kind is prohibited.

- ◆ Use a broom, not a hose, to clean sidewalks, driveways, and patios; Use a broom or commercial sweeper for parking areas.

Indoor Water Use – Indoor water use is determined by the appliances we use, our water use habits, and upkeep of plumbing. Know what is happening and where you can save by performing a quick survey of your property.

Toilets, Showerheads, Faucets

- ◆ Check your toilet for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank. After 30 minutes (without flushing) check to see if any color shows up in the bowl. Invisible leaks can waste 100 gallons of water a day.
- ◆ Use high-efficiency (1.28 gallons per flush or less) toilets, water saving shower heads, and low-flow (1.8 gallons per minute or less) faucet aerators



- ◆ Turn off the faucet while brushing teeth and shaving, and avoid long showers
- ◆ Check faucets for leaks; even a slow drip can waste 15-20 gallons per day
- ◆ Consider waterless urinals for your business

Clothes Washers and Dishwashers

- ◆ Only run full loads in your dishwasher and washing machine. Half-full loads waste water and money.
- ◆ Use Energy Star clothes washers which use 35-50% less water and energy per load
- ◆ Use water saving front-load clothes washers
- ◆ Avoid “permanent press” cycles which can use an extra 5 gallons for extra rinse

Plumbing, Heating, and Cooling

- ◆ Use your water meter to check for leaks. With all water use turned off, check your meter reading. Check the meter again in 30 minutes. If the reading has changed, you have a leak.
- ◆ Close the main shut off valve and run the same test to determine whether the leak is between the meter and shut off valve or downstream of the shut off valve.
- ◆ Look for unusual wet spots on ceilings, floors, and in the yard indicating a leak
- ◆ An instant water heater near the kitchen sink will eliminate having to wait for the water to heat up saving time and water
- ◆ Set HVAC systems and water softeners for a minimum number of refills to save water

Want More Information? - Call the Public Works Utilities Division @ 562-904-7202 or visit www.downeyca.org for water saving rebates & tips