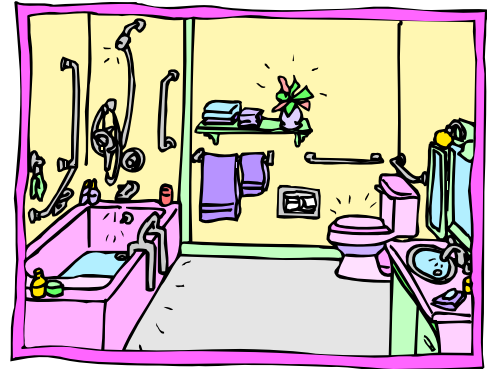




# Easy Ways to Reduce Water Use

## Indoors – Year Round Savings

- 💧 Find and fix all leaks, especially toilet leaks, replace their flappers.
- 💧 Install water-saving devices like low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators.
- 💧 Consider buying a frontloading clothes washer to save water and energy.
- 💧 Consider buying a High Efficiency Toilet (HET), which uses 1.28 gallons or less per flush.
- 💧 Take advantage of Lodi's rebates on new High Efficiency Toilets, shower heads, etc.
- 💧 Take shorter showers, cut your shower to 4 minutes to save around 2,700 gallons per year.
- 💧 Don't leave the water running when brushing your teeth, washing your hands, shaving, or doing the dishes.
- 💧 Run dishwashers and clothes washers with full loads only, or adjust the water level to match the size of the load.
- 💧 Use the garbage disposal only if you must.
- 💧 Use the wastebasket, not the toilet to dispose of trash.



## Outdoors – Watering & Gardening

- 💧 Attach a nozzle with a shutoff valve to the end of your hose.
- 💧 Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it. If you notice runoff, divide the watering time into two cycles to allow the water time to soak in.
- 💧 Consider installing drip irrigation to apply water slowly and directly to the roots of the plants.
- 💧 Water your garden in the morning to give the water time to soak into the ground before wind and the heat of the sun cause it to evaporate.
- 💧 Water to the depth of the plant roots (about 6 inches for lawns, 9 inches for ground cover, 12 inches for shrubs, and 18-24 inches for trees).



- 💧 Use a soil probe (or dig down in the plant's root area using a trowel) to determine if you are watering properly.
- 💧 Water your garden only when it needs it. It is time to water the lawn when it doesn't spring back when walked on.
- 💧 Aim your sprinklers to water your garden, not the sidewalk or other paved areas and check your sprinkler system for problems regularly.
- 💧 Adjust your watering schedule with the weather and the season. If you have an automatic system, remember to turn it off in the winter.
- 💧 Plant water-conserving plants.
- 💧 Group thirsty plants together, away from un-thirsty ones and adjust your watering schedule as your garden matures. Newly planted landscapes need water more frequently than mature ones.
- 💧 Improve your soil by incorporating organic matter. This aerates your soil, and improves its ability to hold water.
- 💧 Prevent weeds from stealing water from your garden by pulling them promptly and applying mulch regularly.
- 💧 Mow grasses higher, between 3 to 4 inches, to reduce water loss.
- 💧 Fertilize less often, only in the spring and fall. Fertilizing encourages rapid plant growth and thirsty plants. California native plants don't need fertilizing.
- 💧 Aerate the lawn by punching holes in the soil. This improves the movement of water into the root area and reduces wasteful runoff.

## **Outdoors – Other Activities**

- 💧 Use a broom, not a hose, to clean driveways and sidewalks.
- 💧 Cover pools and spas, and cut water loss by 90%.
- 💧 Don't let the hose run while you wash your car; use a bucket and nozzle with a shut off valve on your outside hose.

