

**VANDENBERG VILLAGE
COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT**

TIPS TO SAVE WATER

1993



Pride In Community Involvement

Vandenberg Village Community Services District
3757 Constellation Road
Lompoc, CA 93436
(805) 733-2475

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Bathroom

Low-flow shower heads with shut-off valves use only 12-15 gallons of water for a five minute shower. Time how long it takes to fill a 1 gallon container. If your shower uses more than 3 gallons per minute, install an efficient shower head. Low-flow shower heads are available for half-price at VVCS.

Want a warm bath? Don't waste water in the pipes. Bring bath water to desired temperature as the faucet flow becomes hot.

Don't use faucets at full pressure. Cut water use in half by installing a 1.5 gallon per minute aerator in faucets. Aerator and faucet flow restrictors are available for half-price at VVCS.

Laundry Room

Many washing machines use 40 or more gallons per load, whether washing a full load or just a couple of dishtowels. Washing full loads saves both water and energy for hot water.

- ** If your washer has a water-level adjustment, set it for small loads.
- ** If you are replacing a washing machine, front loading models use 10-15 gallons less per load than top loading models.

Kitchen

Some tips for preventing water waste in the kitchen include:

- ** Install a low-flow kitchen sink aerator on faucets.
- ** When washing dishes by hand, don't leave the water running. Use the sink or a dish pan for rinsing dishes.
- ** Run the dishwasher only with a full load.

OUTDOOR WATER SAVING TIPS

Most households use tremendous amounts of water outdoors, especially in the summer. VVCS's well pumping almost doubles during the hot months.

It is important to get irrigation water directly down to the roots, but at the same time prevent run-off.

Drip Irrigation Systems

Drip irrigation can save up to 70% over traditional outdoor irrigation methods. Depending upon the system's level of sophistication, it can be rather expensive. Before committing to such a potentially complicated and expensive irrigation system, one should consult a knowledgeable irrigation expert.

Soaker Hoses

The most common is the flat plastic hose with small perforations in one side. Another type is the ooze tubing or hose. This type appears to "perspire" on the entire outside surface of the hose. These hoses can be coiled or laid out in the area to be watered and slowly saturate the desired area.

Deep-Root Irrigators

When attached to a regular garden hose, root irrigators inject water through a probe to the root zone without wasteful run-off. To help prevent waste, look for types that have a shut-off valve.

Soil Basins

A soil basin is merely a small dirt ridge around the plant or tree to prevent water from running off. Fill the basin with water and give it a chance to soak into the soil.

Gray Water

"Gray water" is used water from clothes washers, bathtubs, showers and bathroom sinks. It can be used to irrigate groundcover, trees and shrubs. A gray water system usually includes drain lines and a holding tank. It requires a county building permit because it modifies wastewater pipes.

Other Methods of Saving Water Out-of-Doors:

- ** Only water between 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m.
- ** Let grass remain higher during the summer.
- ** Do not hose off driveways and sidewalks. Use a broom.
- ** When washing the car use a shut-off nozzle on the hose.
- ** Use common sense. If it rains, turn off automatic sprinkler systems.
- ** Consider replacing lawns with water-saving groundcover, bark chips, and so on.

LEAK DETECTION

A slow drip can leak 15 to 20 gallons of water per day. A larger leak can waste hundreds of gallons in 24 hours.

Some facts about leaks:

- ** The prime culprit is the toilet.
- ** Most other leaks are in faucets and usually result from worn washers.
- ** Other common leaks are in the electric valves of yard watering systems.

Checking for Leaks

1. Make sure that no water is being used inside or outside the house.
2. Locate your water meter and record the meter reading. Wait two or more hours. **MAKE SURE NO WATER IS USED DURING THIS TIME.**
3. Read the meter again. If the reading has changed, you have a leak. It may be in faucets, toilets, appliances, or in the line between the meter and the house.

If you are unsure if you have a leak please call a plumber, or call VVCS (phone: 733-2475) for assistance. There is no charge to you if VVCS technicians visit your home to help you locate a leak.

CONSERVATION THROUGH PROTECTION

Water can also be conserved by protecting it from accidental or deliberate dumping of petroleum products, solvents, and other toxic material.

Millions of gallons of oil are dumped on the ground nationwide each week by do-it-yourself mechanics who change their own motor oil. Eventually, this oil reaches our water supplies either through percolation into the water table or through run-off into streams.

Garden and agricultural chemicals must be approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Each chemical container shows detailed instructions regarding use. Follow the instructions carefully.

**PLEASE SAVE THIS PAMPHLET
FOR FUTURE REFERENCE.**

Even though the drought is over, we should continue to use water wisely.

The amount of inexpensive, easy-to-use water is limited, especially here on the Central Coast of California. In Vandenberg Village, we obtain our water from deep wells. We depend upon rainfall to replenish what we use. This area has light precipitation in an average year.

INDOOR WATER SAVING TIPS

Most people use 70-90 gallons of water per day indoors. Much is wasted.

Toilets

The largest water user inside most homes is the toilet. Approximately 30% of indoor-use household water is flushed every day.

** Replace older model 3.5 to 7 gallon flush toilets with new 1.6 gallon models and save about 25,000 to 30,000 gallons per year in a four-person home. This will result in a savings of \$40-50 per year on the water bill.

** Toilets are notorious for hidden leaks. Some leaks can be detected by adding a few drops of food coloring to the water in the tank. Wait fifteen minutes. If you see coloring in the bowl, you have a leak that should be repaired.