

Did you Know....

- ▶ there is the same amount of water on the Earth today as there was a million years ago?
- ▶ less than 1% of the water on Earth is available for human use?
- ▶ the average person uses about 160 gallons of water every day?
- ▶ about 20% of the world's electricity comes from hydroelectric power?
- ▶ a water saving washing machine only uses about 15 gallons per cycle?
- ▶ a conventional washing machine uses 42 gallons per cycle?
- ▶ sea water is 200 times saltier than fresh water?
- ▶ a five minute shower with a low flow showerhead only uses about 15 gallons of water?
- ▶ it uses less water to run your full dishwasher once than to wash three loads by hand?
- ▶ a leaking toilet can waste up to 60 gallons of water per day (1,800 gallons per month)?
- ▶ you can find additional tips at <http://www.h2ouse.org> or on the VVCSD website at <http://www.vvcسد.org/tips.htm>?

Vandenberg Village Community Services District
3757 Constellation Road
Lompoc, CA 93436-1495

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Use water wisely and keep it clean. It's a way of life.

Water Awareness



Vandenberg Village
Community Services District
3757 Constellation Road
Lompoc CA 93436
(805) 733-2475
info@vvcسد.org

On the web at
<http://www.vvcسد.org>

How Do You Measure Up?

Every day activities can affect the quantity and quality of our water. Take a few minutes to complete this checklist from <http://www.getwise.org/> to consider how you contribute to the problem and/or to the solution.

Do You.....

1. turn off the tap water as you brush your teeth or shave?
2. refrain from running the lawn sprinkler during mid-day?
3. properly dispose of used containers of paint, solvents, or cleansers instead of throwing them into the trash?
4. refrain from emptying leftover paint, solvents or cleansers into the kitchen sink?
5. run the washing machine or dishwasher with full loads?
6. refrain from watering your lawn frequently during the summer to maintain a lush lawn?
7. find alternatives to fertilizers and lawn feeders to help the lawn recover from the winter?
8. clean the driveway, sidewalk or curb side with a broom instead of hosing it down with water?
9. repair dripping faucets before it turns into a steady leak?
10. refrain from using the toilet to dispose of ordinary waste and bugs around the house?
11. refrain from washing the car every weekend in the summer?
12. properly dispose of used motor oil instead of changing your oil in the street or using storm drains to dispose of the used oils?
13. properly dispose of lawn and gardening trimmings instead of washing them into the curb or down storm drains?
14. limit your use of the garbage disposal to get rid of food scraps?
15. know where your water goes? or comes from?
16. notify your Community Services District about obvious water wasters in your neighborhood?
17. volunteer to help clean up a water body or promote quality awareness in your community?
18. know who operates your water utility?
19. know how much it costs for your water supply and wastewater treatment?

To how many questions were you able to answer YES?

Water Wasters

A dripping faucet can waste a lot of water. A drip that totals only two tablespoons a minute is equal to 15 gallons a day. That's 105 gallons a week and 5,460 wasted gallons of water a year!

Check your sprinklers. A faulty sprinkler valve can easily lose hundreds of gallons overnight. Sometimes these leaks are hard to spot. If you hear water running somewhere or your water bill is unusually high, VVCSD can help. Our technicians may be able to help you locate a hidden leak.

Each year, the Governor of California proclaims May as "Water Awareness Month" to increase public understanding about the quality of California's water supply and to make water conservation a way of life.

Water Quality

The quality of our wastewater can impact the quality of our water. Help prevent pollution to our drinking water source by properly disposing of the chemicals you use in your home. Every household chemical has the potential to pollute the environment and contaminate our water supply. Remember, your drain leads to your wastewater disposal system and eventually to our drinking water source. Protect our water by respecting your wastewater system.

Toilet Rebate Program

Toilets are the largest water users inside most homes. Approximately 30% of indoor-use household water is flushed every day. Replace older model 3.5 to 7 gallon flush toilets with a new 1.6 gallon model and save about 25,000 to 30,000 gallons per year on a four-person home. Call the District and request to be added to our rebate list. You can receive a rebate up to \$130.00 per toilet, up to two toilets per household.

To participate in the Water Conservation (Toilet Rebate) Program:

1. **Customer** - contact the District office either in person or by telephone to be added to list
2. **District** - add customer's name to eligibility list
3. **District** - provide a letter of confirmation with instructions on how to proceed
4. **Customer** - install ultra low-flow toilet(s)
5. **Customer** - provide receipts to the District office by date on letter
6. **District** - reimburse customer via check or account credit

Toilets are notorious for hidden leaks. To check your toilet, add a few drops of food coloring, or dye tablets available from VVCSD, to the water in the tank. Wait about fifteen minutes, if you see coloring in the bowl, you have a leak that should be repaired.