

Why Conserve?

Water is in high demand throughout California and the state is facing severe shortages. California's water shortage is a result of numerous factors, some of which include:

- Ongoing droughts
- Habitat protection
- Growing population
- Aging infrastructure
- Climate change

The water shortage has a profound effect on all Californians, regardless whether you live in an urban or rural community.

Where it's a drought year or not, California's semi-arid climate requires water conservation efforts every year. While measures have been passed at the State-level, it is imperative that individuals implement their own water conservation techniques to help mitigate water shortage.

Individual efforts play a large role in water conservation and it's something you can start today.

Water is of such high value to California that its protection has been included in the State's Constitution to prohibit its waste and unreasonable use.

The Atascadero General Plan includes a policy to promote water conservation efforts throughout the community.

Additional Resources

For additional information on water conservation, please contact the following agencies:

Atascadero Mutual Water Company
(805) 466-2428
www.amwc.us

San Luis Obispo County Water Resources
(805) 781-5252
www.slocountywater.org

Save Our Water Program
(916) 669-2762
www.saveourh2o.org

City of Atascadero
ph. 805-461-5000
fax 805-461-7612
www.atascadero.org



A Stormwater Management Guide to

Water Conservation



SAVE WATER!



Indoor Use

There are numerous steps you can take to decrease the amount of water used for indoor use. These steps will not only reduce the amount of water we use, but will also save you on your water bill.



Stop Those Leaks

Check your indoor water using appliances and devices for leaks. Many silent leaks allow water and your money to go down the drain. Studies have shown homes can waste more than 10% due to leaking which costs both you and the environment.



Replace your old Toilet

If your home was built before 1992 and the toilet has never been replaced, then it is very likely that you do not have a water efficient 1.6 gallon per flush toilet. You can check the date stamp inside the toilet by lifting the lid and looking at the back of the toilet at the manufacturer's make, model and date of manufacture

Replace your Washer

Energy Star™ rated washers that also have a Water Factor at or lower than 9.5, use 35-50% less water and 50% less energy per load. This saves you money on both your water and energy bills.

Outdoor Use

The Atascadero Mutual Water Company estimates that more than 50% of their supplied water is used to maintain landscaping throughout the city. The majority of this outdoor use is between the months of May and August when temperatures are high and rainfall is limited.

Plant the Right Plants

Whether you are putting in a new landscape or slowly changing the current landscaping at your home, select plants that are appropriate for your local climate conditions. Having yard with 100% lawn turf area in a dry desert climate uses significant amounts of water. Also consider the trend towards Xeriscaping and a more natural landscape or wildscape.



Lawn Conservation

- Wait to Plant a new lawn until adequate rainfall is received.
- Periodically aerate your lawn. Aerating increases air and water transfer to the root zone, which is vital for a healthy lawn.

Irrigation

- Check sprinklers frequently, and adjust so sprinklers only water your lawn and not the sidewalk.
- Choose a water-efficient drip irrigation system for trees shrubs and flowers.
- Adjust Irrigation controllers so that you are only watering one day per week.