



# CITY OF EMERYVILLE

INCORPORATED 1896

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Date: April 17, 2015

To: Sabrina Landreth, City Manager

From: Maurice Kaufman, Public Works Director

Subject: Water Savings- Drought Measures

The City of Emeryville's Public Works Department is being pro-active in light of the severe water supply shortage California is facing. On April 1, 2015, Governor Brown issued an executive order mandating substantial water use reductions across the State. The State mandate prohibits the use of potable water for: washing sidewalks and driveways; decorative water features that do not recirculate the water; outdoor irrigation during and 48 hours following measurable precipitation; using hoses without a shutoff device; and excessive runoff when irrigating. In support of the State's order, on April 14, 2015, the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) Board of Directors approved mandatory 20-percent cutbacks and stricter outdoor watering rules. The Board also set the stage for up to 25-percent rate increases and penalties for customers who over-use.

In Emeryville, Public Works has been busy adjusting landscape irrigation watering by significantly reducing watering cycles or simply turning irrigation water off in select areas. Staff has also been working closely with the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) to monitor and reduce water usage in the City's parks, medians, and other landscaped right-of-ways the City is responsible for irrigating.

Public Works has also taken steps to further reduce water consumption citywide. Staff has been installing faucet aerators and other water consumption reduction devices at all City facilities. The Department has installed over 50 water conserving devices since Governor Brown's mandate was issued. The majority of the devices installed citywide have been ultra-efficient .5 GPM (gallon per minute) faucet aerators which are replacing, in most cases, 2 GPM standard aerators. These types of simple plumbing changes can result in a huge reduction in overall water consumption at City facilities.

Public Works encourages everyone to do their part to conserve water and welcomes ideas or strategies that can be practically implemented within the City of Emeryville to further reduce water consumption to City buildings, grounds, and facilities. The City would also like the public to be aware that EBMUD has a program to report water wasters (<https://ebmud.com/report-water-waste>). Members of the public are encouraged to report sources of water waste and the District will follow up and take action where appropriate.



# Fact Sheet

## 2015 Emergency Water Conservation Regulation Frequently Asked Questions

On March 17, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board or Board) adopted an expanded [emergency conservation regulation](#) to safeguard the state's remaining water supplies as California enters a fourth consecutive dry year. While there are many ways to boost local water supplies, conservation is the easiest, most efficient, and most cost effective way to quickly reduce water demand and extend supplies into the next year, providing flexibility for all California communities. With our inability to predict the remainder of this rainy season or the next, water saved today can improve a region's water security and add flexibility to systems that may need to withstand another year or more of warm temperatures and low precipitation.

The enhanced emergency conservation regulation targets both individual water use, by identifying the practices from which every Californian should abstain during this drought emergency, as well as the steps that local water suppliers should be taking to reduce water demand in their service areas. These updated restrictions set a minimum level of effort in this continuing drought emergency. Everyone should take additional steps to conserve water. As the drought wears on, the State Water Board will closely watch local implementation of the regulation, and will take further action as needed.

### 1. What types of water use are prohibited for all Californians?

The 2015 emergency conservation regulation prohibits:

- Using potable water to wash sidewalks and driveways;
- Allowing runoff when irrigating with potable water;
- Using hoses with no shutoff nozzles to wash cars;
- Using potable water in decorative water features that do not recirculate the water; and
- **New** Irrigating outdoors during and within 48 hours following measureable rainfall

### 2. Are businesses required to conserve water as well?

Yes, the prohibitions above apply to businesses and residents. In addition, the 2015 emergency regulation also focuses on the restaurant and hospitality sector:

- **New** Restaurants are prohibited from serving water to their customers unless the customer requests it; and
- **New** Hotels and motels must offer their guests the option to not have their linens and towels laundered daily, and prominently display this option in each guest room.



- Restaurants are also encouraged to use table cards to help convey the conservation message. Table card templates are available for download at the Save Our Water website at: <http://saveourwater.com/for-water-agencies/toolkit/>. Local water suppliers may also be able to provide similar materials.

### **3. Do water suppliers have to implement conservation measures?**

Yes, there are requirements for both large urban water suppliers serving more than 3,000 customers, as well as small water suppliers serving fewer than 3,000 customers.

Large urban water suppliers (serving >3000 connections) must:

- Impose restrictions on outdoor irrigation;
- Notify customers about leaks that are within the customer's control;
- Report on water use monthly; and
- Report on compliance and enforcement

Small water suppliers (serving <3000 connections) must:

- Limit outdoor irrigation to two days per week **or** comparable measures to achieve a 20 percent reduction in water use.

### **4. Are there limitations on outdoor watering?**

Yes, the regulations limit the number of days per week that outdoor irrigation is allowed. Urban water suppliers with water shortage contingency plans can rely on limitations in their plans if they exist. Plans with no limitations must restrict outdoor watering to two days per week.

### **5. Can water shortage contingency plans be amended to impose day-per-week restrictions in lieu of implementing the two-day-per-week backstop?**

Yes, the regulations allow for the local amendment of the plans.

### **6. Is everyone required to limit outdoor watering to two days per week?**

No, the regulations rely on the days-per-week limitations contained on local water shortage contingency plans. If these plans do not contain limitations, then a two-day-per-week restriction must be implemented. Smaller water suppliers that are not required to have water shortage contingency plans have the option of implementing the two-day-per-week restriction or comparable conservation measures designed to achieve a 20 percent reduction in water use.

### **7. How do I report water waste?**

Water waste should be reported to the water supplier for the service area. The State Water Board's conservation website contains a simple tool to find the contact information for the water supplier based on the location of the alleged wasteful activity. The tool is located at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water\\_issues/programs/drought/water\\_supplier.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/drought/water_supplier.shtml).

**8. Who can enforce the prohibitions?**

Violations of prohibited activities are considered infractions and are punishable by fines of up to \$500 for each day in which the violation occurs. Any peace officer or employee of a public agency charged with enforcing laws and authorized to do so by ordinance may issue a citation to the violator. The State Water Board can issue cease and desist orders against water agencies that don't impose mandatory outdoor irrigation restrictions upon their retail customers. Water suppliers that violate cease and desist orders are subject to civil liability of up to \$10,000 a day.

**9. Who makes sure that the water suppliers are doing their part?**

The State Water Board has been tracking the implementation of conservation measures by large urban water suppliers. Information on their progress along with the status of their enforcement efforts is available on the website at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water\\_issues/programs/drought/conservation\\_report\\_info.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/drought/conservation_report_info.shtml). With more than 2,500 smaller water agencies not subject to reporting requirements, compliance checking is more challenging but is a priority for 2015.

**10. Where can I find the monthly reports and conservation results submitted by the urban water suppliers?**

The reports can be found on the State Water Board's website at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water\\_issues/programs/drought/conservation\\_report\\_info.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/drought/conservation_report_info.shtml). Information on the regulation can be found at:  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water\\_issues/programs/drought/emergency\\_regulations\\_waterconservation.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/drought/emergency_regulations_waterconservation.shtml).

**11. When does the regulation go into effect?**

The regulation goes into effect immediately upon approval by the Office of Administrative Law and filing with the Secretary of State. The effective date of the regulation is March 27, 2015.

**12. How long is the regulation in effect for?**

The regulation will be in effect for 270 days unless extended by the State Water Board.

For more information, visit the [Emergency Water Conservation Portal](#).

Please visit [SaveOurWater.com](http://SaveOurWater.com) today!



# Fact Sheet

## The Drought – Making a Difference Indoors

Water is a critical part of California’s way of life. Our economy, our environment and our day-to-day lifestyle need water to flourish. But our water is limited--especially this year. The lack of rain and snow mean that our water supply will be challenged to meet the state's needs. Conservation will help us stretch the water that we do have.

California is suffering from a drought so we cannot afford to waste any water. The good news is there are lots of simple ways to reduce the amount of water that we use at home, both inside and outside. If we all work together, we can make a difference for California’s future.

### In the home

Water is essential to each of us every day. But it’s a limited resource, so we all need to rethink the way we use water on a daily basis. By following these water-saving tips inside your home, you can help save water every day:

#### Laundry Room

- Use the washing machine for full loads only to save water and energy
- Install a water-efficient clothes washer Save: 16 Gallons/Load
- Washing dark clothes in cold water saves water and energy, and helps your clothes retain their color.

#### Kitchen

- Run the dishwasher only when full to save water and energy.
- Install a water- and energy-efficient dishwasher. Save: 3 to 8 Gallons/Load.
- Install aerators on the kitchen faucet to reduce flows to less than 1 gallon per minute.
- When washing dishes by hand, don’t let the water run. Fill one basin with wash water and the other with rinse water.
- Dishwashers typically use less water than washing dishes by hand.
- If your dishwasher is new, cut back on rinsing. Newer models clean more thoroughly than older ones.



- Soak pots and pans instead of letting the water run while you scrape them clean.
- Use the garbage disposal sparingly. Instead, compost vegetable food waste and save gallons every time.
- Wash your fruits and vegetables in a pan of water instead of running water from the tap.
- Don't use running water to thaw food. Defrost food in the refrigerator.
- Keep a pitcher of drinking water in the refrigerator instead of running the tap.
- Cook food in as little water as possible. This also helps it retain more nutrients.
- Select the proper pan size for cooking. Large pans may require more cooking water than necessary.
- If you accidentally drop ice cubes, don't throw them in the sink. Drop them in a house plant instead.
- Collect the water you use while rinsing fruit and vegetables. Use it to water house plants.

## Bathroom

- Install low-flow shower heads. Save: 2.5 Gallons
- Take five minute showers instead of 10 minute showers. Save: 12.5 gallons with a low flow showerhead, 25 gallons with a standard 5.0 gallon per minute showerhead.
- Fill the bathtub halfway or less. Save: 12 Gallons
- When running a bath, plug the bathtub before turning on the water. Adjust the temperature as the tub fills.
- Install aerators on bathroom faucets. Save: 1.2 Gallons Per Person/Day
- Turn water off when brushing teeth or shaving. Save: Approximately 10 Gallons/Day
- Install a high-efficiency toilet. Save: 19 Gallons Per Person/Day
- Don't use the toilet as a wastebasket.
- Be sure to test your toilet for leaks at least once a year.
- Put food coloring in your toilet tank. If it seeps into the bowl without flushing, there's a leak. Fix it and start saving gallons.
- Consider buying a dual-flush toilet. It has two flush options: a half-flush for liquid waste and a full-flush for solid waste.
- Plug the sink instead of running the water to rinse your razor and save up to 300 gallons a month.
- Turn off the water while washing your hair and save up to 150 gallons a month.
- When washing your hands, turn the water off while you lather.
- Take a (short) shower instead of a bath. A bathtub can use up to 70 gallons of water.

**For more information on ways to save water outdoors, visit [saveourh2o.org](http://saveourh2o.org)**

**To find out more about the Water Board's work to address the drought, see:  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water\\_issues/programs/drought/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/drought/index.shtml)**



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### Outdoors

Most Californians think that they use more water indoors than outdoors. Typically, the opposite is true. In some areas, 50% or more of the water we use daily goes on lawns and outdoor landscaping. There are lots of ways to save water at home, but reducing the water you use outdoors can make the biggest difference of all. Here are a few easy ways to change the way you use water outside your home.

### Know the Basics

- Water early in the morning or later in the evening when temperatures are cooler. Save: 25 gallons/each time you water
- Check your sprinkler system frequently and adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk, or street. Save: 15-12 gallons/each time you water
- Choose a water-efficient irrigation system such as drip irrigation for your trees, shrubs, and flowers. Save: 15 gallons/each time you water.
- Water deeply but less frequently to create healthier and stronger landscapes.
- Put a layer of mulch around trees and plants to reduce evaporation and keep the soil cool. Organic mulch also improves the soil and prevents weeds. Save: 20-30 gallons/each time you water/1,000 sq. ft.
- Plant drought-resistant trees and plants. Save: 30- 60 gallons/each time you water/1,000 sq. ft



## Don't Overwater

One easy way to cut down how much water you use outdoors is to learn how much water your landscaping actually needs in order to thrive. Overwatering is one of the most common mistakes people make.

## Get Smart

If you really want to be a sophisticated water user, invest in a weather-based irrigation controller—or a smart controller. These devices will automatically adjust the watering time and frequency based on soil moisture, rain, wind, and evaporation and transpiration rates. Check with your local water agency to see if there is a rebate available for the purchase of a smart controller.

## Know Your Climate

One way to save water outdoors is to plant the right plants for your climate. Here are some tools to help you learn how to be a water-wise gardener:

- Explore the Save Our Water Water-Wise Garden Tool to learn what plants and flowers will flourish in your neighborhood.
- Sunset Magazine's Plant Finder is another great tool.
- Learn more about gardening in a Mediterranean climate.

## Outdoor Cleanup

Water is often a go-to tool for outdoor clean-up jobs.

- Use a broom to clean driveways, sidewalks and patios. Save: 8-18 gallons /minute.
- Wash cars/boats with a bucket, sponge, and hose with self-closing nozzle. Save: 8-18 gallons/minute.
- Invest in a water broom. If you have to use water to clean up outside, a water broom will attach to your hose but uses a combination of air and water pressure to aid cleaning. Water brooms can use as little as 2.8 gallons per minute (gpm) to remove dirt, food spills, leaves, and litter from concrete and asphalt while a standard hose typically uses 5 to 20 gpm.

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