

## Water Conservation

Being conscientious of your water usage inside and outside of your home not only helps to save the environment but can save thousands of gallons of water and lots of money over time. Lower your water bill, your energy bill, as well as your sewer bill by making even the smallest changes in an effort to conserve water. Here are some tips on how to save water:

### Check for leaks.

- Start by turning off all appliances and fixtures that use water both inside and outside your house. Read the water meter immediately and check it again after 15 minutes. If the meter has moved after 15 minutes, there is a leak in your house that could be due to running toilets, dripping faucets, or broken sprinklers.

### Save water while doing chores.

- Don't let the faucet run when you are washing dishes by hand. Fill one side with soapy water and the other with rinse water.
- Only wash your clothes or run the dishwasher when you have a full load.
- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean your driveway and sidewalk. Hoses can use more than 10 gallons of water per minute.
- Turn off the faucet while brushing your teeth.
- Wash your car at a self-service car wash rather than at your home.

### Save water while you shower.

- Keep a bucket in the shower to catch water as it runs while you are waiting for it to heat up. Use this water to water your plants or lawn.
- Taking showers instead of baths uses much less water. Also, turn off the shower while shampooing and conditioning your hair.

### Visit the City of Santa Cruz Water Conservation Office.

- The Water Conservation Office provides free showerheads, faucet aerators, toilet tank leak-detection dye tablets, shower timers, garden hose timers, garden hose shut-off nozzles, and other items to help you conserve water. Their services are only for residents in the City of Santa Cruz Water Service Department service area. Visit their office at 809 Center Street in Santa Cruz or [online](#).