



### HOME WATER VISITS

The Utilities Department offers complimentary home water visits to residents. A Water Conservation Specialist visits your home and evaluates fixtures for opportunities to save water (and money) indoors and outdoors.

#### A home water visit involves the following:

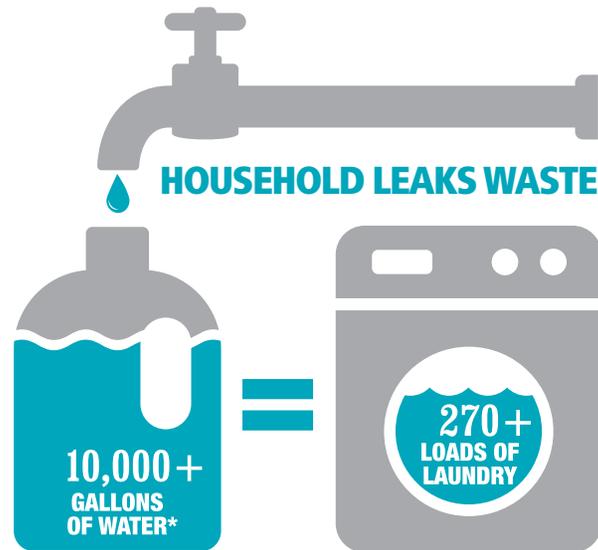
- Identifying and describing the types of plumbing in your home.
- Identifying potential leaks indoors and outdoors.
- Evaluating your monthly water consumption.
- Discussing the maintenance of your irrigation systems.
- Providing information about low-flow devices available to help conserve water as well as information about rebates, incentive programs, and water conservation strategies.
- Includes a complimentary water conservation kit. (Contents may vary; one per household.)

### WATER RESTRICTIONS IN SANTA MARIA

- No outdoor irrigation of ornamental landscapes or turf with potable water from 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- No application of potable water to outdoor landscapes during or within 48 hours after measurable rainfall.
- No runoff when irrigating with potable water.
- No use of potable water on driveways or sidewalks.
- No use of hoses without a shut-off nozzle to wash vehicles.
- No use of potable water in a non-recirculating, decorative water feature.

#### POTABLE WATER *po'ta-ble (adjective) wa'ter (noun)*

Safe drinking water. Water from the surface and ground sources treated to levels that meet State and Federal standards for consumption.



\*Average U.S. Family per Year

### WATER CONSERVATION HOTLINE & INFORMATION

Call or email the Water Conservation Hotline to report water misuse or leaks, to request more information, or to schedule a home water visit.

Phone: (805) 925-0951 ext. 2802

E-mail: [waterhotline@cityofsantamaria.org](mailto:waterhotline@cityofsantamaria.org)

[www.cityofsantamaria.org/waterconservation](http://www.cityofsantamaria.org/waterconservation)



# Don't waste a drop!

## RESIDENTIAL WATER CONSERVATION GUIDE



(805) 925-0951 ext. 7270 ■ [www.cityofsantamaria.org](http://www.cityofsantamaria.org)

## OVERVIEW

The City of Santa Maria maintains a robust water awareness and conservation program that includes year-round community outreach, school education presentations, complimentary residential home water visits, and suspected leak notifications within the city limits. Water is a limited and valuable resource. Water conservation is something we all should understand and practice, as water is a vital part of our environment.

## WATER CONSERVATION TIPS & IDEAS

Conserving water is easy and there is something that each of us can do. Here are some tips and ideas to help get you started:

### In the Kitchen

- When washing dishes by hand, use the least amount of detergent possible. This minimizes rinse water needed.
- Don't let the faucet run while you clean vegetables. Rinse them in a filled sink or pan.
- Don't defrost frozen foods with running water. Plan ahead by placing frozen items in the refrigerator overnight or defrost them in the microwave.
- Run your dishwasher only when it's full and save up to 1,000 gallons per year.

### In the Bathroom

- Turn off the water while you brush your teeth, and save four gallons a minute. That's 200 gallons each week for a family of four.
- Before you lather up, install a low-flow showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you and your family more than 500 gallons a week.
- Shorten your showers to 5 minutes and save up to 700 gallons of water each month. Remember: wash, lather, and rinse.



### In the Front Yard and Back Yard

- Adjust sprinklers so that only your lawn is watered, not the house, sidewalk, or street.
- Choose water-efficient drip irrigation for your trees, shrubs, and flowers.
- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean your driveways and sidewalks, and save up to 80 gallons of water every time you clean.



## LOOK, LISTEN, AND FEEL FOR LEAKS

In most cases, replacement parts for fixtures or plumbing do not require a major investment, and can be installed by homeowners. Fixing easily-correctable household leaks can lead to measurable financial savings.

- **Look** at all pipes inside the home. Check underneath the kitchen sink, bathroom, laundry room, and the front/back hose bib. If there is a slow leak or a wet spot around the area, or a noticeable drip, there may be a leak in the pipes.
- **Listen** for dripping faucets and toilets flushing without pressing the flapper. Fixing a leaky toilet can save a family up to 500 gallons of water each month.
- **Feel** for drips and leaks inside and outside the home.
- **Water meters** can be also used to help detect leaks. Water meters are usually located in a meter box in a small concrete vault near the street. Turn off all faucets in and around the home, check the meter, wait about 10 to 15 minutes, and check the meter again. If the meter reading has changed, you may have a leak. Regularly checking the water meter along with your utility bill can help you track water usage better.
- **Did you know?** Some leaks come from irrigation systems. Each month, inspect sprinklers to make sure they are flowing correctly. Water in the early morning to avoid evaporation. Be sure to adjust watering schedules to the season. During the summer, water your lawns every third day; during the winter, every fifth day.

## EXAMPLES OF WATER LOST TO LEAKS FROM A DRIPPING FAUCET

