



## Outdoor Water Saving Tips for Residential Customers with Large Properties

### *Improving your irrigation system's water use efficiency*

1. Check your irrigation system's efficiency each month or quarter. You or your gardener can check the irrigation system by running each station to identify and fix some of the most common inefficiencies including:
  - a. Overspraying and Underspraying
  - b. Clogged or broken heads
  - c. Wrong size head or rotor in place
  - d. Incorrect type of spray head or rotor being used
  - e. Dry spots (caused by inconsistent watering coverage of sprinklers) and/or wet spots (usually from excessive watering and/or too long of watering intervals)
  - f. Use the Irrigation System Tune Up Checklist for a quick and easy way to check your irrigation system and help improve the system's efficiency, or contact a Licensed Landscape Contractor at: <http://www.clca.org/index.php?v=cs&p=csf>.
2. As plants grow and become established the type of irrigation equipment (spray head, rotor, etc.) may need to be updated to ensure continued efficient watering. Some common updates include:
  - a. Adding risers for the water spray to reach above the vegetation and to all of the plants within that spray head's radius.
  - b. Replace spray heads with low flow bubbler or drip heads to water dense foliage and where the soil has become compact and absorbs water at a slower rate.
  - c. Adjust spray angles and radius distance to meet changes in landscape.
3. Upgrade standard fixed sprayer sprinkler to high performance rotors that use less water and deliver a more consistent and efficient spray through the watered area. These upgrades can be made as sprinklers break or all at once for immediate efficiency improvement.
4. Replace traditional spray heads along thin strips of shrubs and groundcover with drip lines that are less likely to get broken and that help deliver water directly to the soil and down to the plant's roots.
5. Upgrade to multi-stream rotators that use an average of up to 30% less water than traditional spray heads as they apply water more slowly and evenly.



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### ***California Friendly Landscapes***

1. A key first step in creating a California Friendly landscape or simply making upgrades to your current landscape is to organize your landscape irrigation stations into separate hydrozones. A hydrozone is where all the vegetation in an area has a similar water need that allows you to set the irrigation schedule accordingly.
2. Utilize Metropolitan Water District's (MWD) online California Friendly Garden Guide to select California Friendly plants that require little water, fit in your landscape area, and match the desired style, shape, and color of vegetation for our landscape.
  - a. Select the California Friendly Plants for your landscape at: <http://www.bewaterwise.com/Gardensoft/index.aspx>
3. In the hot Southern California climate water can quickly evaporate from bare soil. By adding mulch around trees and in planters and border areas you can minimize water loss, help control weeds, and return nutrients to the soil.
  - b. Be sure to keep mulch away from the base of shrubs and trees to prevent decay and disease.
4. Take one of MWD's free online classes to help design and maintain your California Friendly Landscape at <http://www.bewaterwise.com/training01.html> or contact one of the

### ***Watering Schedules***

1. Adjust watering schedules based on the changes in the local weather conditions using the Water Calculator on Metropolitan Water District's (MWD) Be Water Wise website. By entering your zip code, type of soil, vegetation, and irrigation system the Water Calculator creates a specialized watering schedule for your property.
  - a. MWD's Water Calculator is available at <http://www.bewaterwise.com/calculator.html>
2. Prevent runoff on slopes and hillsides by reducing the watering interval (minutes watered) to only a few minutes at a time. As necessary, additional intervals can be added per day to meet the higher water needs by plants in the hot summer months.
3. If you frequently travel or have difficulty changing your watering schedule each season, a weather based irrigation controller (WBIC) or Smart Controller can help you save water and time. A weather-based irrigation controller (WBIC) or Smart Controller creates a watering schedule based on the local weather conditions and needs of your plants and is automatically adjusted based on the changing weather conditions through the year.



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### ***Water saving tips for other outdoor usage***

1. Proper maintenance and care of your pool can you save water and money.
  - a. Keep a pool cover in place when your pool is not in use. This keeps the pool clean, prevents water evaporation, and helps keep the pool warm to save on energy for heating.
  - b. Regularly clean your pool and spa to keep the surface clean and prevent cracks and other damage that may cause water loss.
  - c. Repair identified leaks and/or crack in your pool or spa.
  - d. Refill pool or spa during non-peak energy times to help keep your energy costs down.
2. Wash your vehicles and boats using a spray nozzle with an automotive shut-off valve to prevent unnecessary water down the storm drain, or take your vehicles to a professional car wash with a wastewater recycling system.
3. Use a dry broom or low-water using high efficiency waterbroom to clean off walkways, horse stable areas, and driveways. Unlike washing down with a hose or traditional sprayer the waterbroom creates a high pressure flow that reduces washing time and leave less water for quick drying time.