

## Saving water-- even in rainy years

Come rain or shine, saving water in California remains crucial. Drought climate change is shrinking the winter snowpack, and the state has less than we have. [Here are some ways to save water](#) - and probably changes to rebates. The East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) and other utilities offer similar programs.



### Outdoors:

- **Upgrade your garden game:** EBMUD offers rebates for a smart irrigation controller, irrigation flow sensor, high-efficiency sprinkler nozzles, pressure regulators, and more - find information is on their [website](#).
- **Plant smart:** Plant [drought tolerant plants](#) (preferably natives). Use mulch - [at least three inches if you can](#). Get a [rebate](#) for replacing lawns with water-friendly landscaping. Save Our Water lets you search for [lawn replacement rebates by zip code](#).
- **Water smart:** Make sure [sprinklers](#) are watering garden, not pavement. The best times are early mornings - say [5:00 - 9:00 am](#). A [few rules carry potential fines](#) -- don't water for 48 hours after rain, don't hose down your sidewalk or driveway, and use a shut-off nozzle if you wash cars or equipment. (Do this over gravel or grass to [cut pollution](#).)

### Indoors:

- **Turn off the tap:** For a simple start, turn off the faucet off while you brush teeth, shave, or soap up.
- **Fix leaks, amp up efficiency:** [EBMUD customers](#) can get a free [Home Survey Kit](#) to find leaks - and cut water bills. Returning the completed survey can get you free low-flow showerheads, faucet aerators, hose nozzles, and shower diverters. Owners of multi-family properties or businesses, email [waterconservation@ebmud.com](mailto:waterconservation@ebmud.com).
- **Reuse water:** Water house or garden plants with water from washing veggies or boiling pasta, or flow while you wait for a shower to warm up.
- **Watersmart calculator:** This [tool](#), created by EBMUD, helps you calculate your total home water use so you can find ways to save.

### On your plate:

California, agriculture uses about four times as much water as cities. Worldwide, agriculture uses about 80% of fresh water. For most people, water used to grow, process, and transport their food is more than they use for everything else.

Changing your diet can be an easy and healthy way to reduce your overall water "footprint." Generally, meat requires the most water, with grain-finished beef more demanding than pork or chicken. But [it's complicated](#). Try looking up some things you eat with this [Water Footprint of Food Calculator](#), and substitute for a few. Maybe try a new recipe! Many of these changes also lower your carbon footprint, helping against global warming.

**There are many ways to cut water use - don't feel overwhelmed.** Choose a few to focus on. When you're up for it, you can always do more!

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