

ROUGH DRAFT

CALIFORNIA IS IN A DROUGHT. WE MUST SAVE WATER NOW.

SAVING WATER IS EASY

The Town of Portola Valley has called on all residents and businesses for a 10 percent voluntary reduction in water use. It can start by simply turning off the faucet while brushing your teeth or using a broom instead of a garden hose to clean the driveway. Here are a few water-saving tips:

In the Kitchen:

- Fix the leaky faucet. This simple, inexpensive repair can save 15+ gallons per day per leak.
- Install a kitchen faucet aerator in your sink and save gallons of water every day.
- Only run your dishwasher with full loads; save 15-20 gallons per load.
- When washing dishes by hand, don't let the water run while rinsing. Fill one sink with wash water and the other with rinse water.

In the Bathroom:

- Install a low-flow showerhead and faucet aerators and save 16 gallons per day per household.
- Fix a leaky toilet. Add food coloring or dye tablets in your toilet tank. If the color shows in the bowl without flushing, you have a leak.
- Install a high-efficiency toilet and save 25 gallons per day per toilet.
- You can potentially save hundreds of gallons a month by timing your showers to be under five minutes at a time.

Outdoors:

- Water in the early morning. You can save 20-25 gallons per day.
- Adjust your sprinklers so only your lawn is being watered. Check your sprinkler heads, valves and drip emitters once a month and save 15-25 gallons per day.
- Apply a layer of organic mulch around plants to reduce moisture loss and keep weeds down and save 20-30 gallons per day.
- Try planting a water-wise garden. Select plants that are appropriate for the site and create a landscape that can be maintained with little supplemental watering.

In the Laundry Room:

- Wash clothes only when you have a full load; save 15-20 gallons per load.
- When shopping for a new washing machine, consider a high efficiency model and receive a rebate.