

How Residents Can Help!

Tips to help conserve water and prevent pollution:

Inside the House

- Turn off the water while brushing teeth, shaving or soaping up hands and body.
- Take short showers or shallow baths. Install low flow faucet aerators, shower heads, and ultra low flush toilets.
- Fix leaky faucets and toilets.
- Don't use your toilet as a wastebasket.
- Put leftover cooking grease in the trash - not down the drain! Residents can also dispose of up to 10 gallons of cooking oil at the SMaRT Station Recycling Center. See the [SMaRT Station](#) page for more info.
- Keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator rather than running water to get it cold.
- Wash only full loads of dishes and laundry.
- Clean your house with vinegar, baking soda, lemon juice, and Borax - not toxic chemicals.
- Take unwanted household hazardous products to a collection event or site - do not pour them down the drain.

Outside the House

- Turn off the hose in between rinses when washing the car.
- Wash your car on a porous area like grass or gravel - not on the driveway or better yet, take it to a car wash.
- Cars pollute water as well as air so drive less. Walk...bicycle...carpool...take public transit or telecommute.
- Adjust your irrigation or landscape sprinkler system to suit the weather, season, time of day, slope, shady/sunny areas and kinds of plants to prevent water runoff into storm drains.
- Landscape with drought resistant plants, arrange plants with the same water requirements together, and create absorbent borders at the sidewalk's edge.
- Learn how to use less-toxic pest control and fertilizer methods, or better yet, garden organically.
- Create a native plant garden that will attract beneficial insects to reduce the need for pesticides.
- Make your own compost to reduce the need for chemical fertilizers.
- Clean the carport, garage and sidewalks with a broom rather than a hose.
- Cover the swimming pool and spa to decrease evaporation.
- Avoid copper based algaecide pool cleaning products.
- When necessary, discharge pool, spa, or decorative fountain water into a sewer line or to landscaping. Do not discharge to the storm drain.