

Using ten tips will save water, money at your house

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With the recent downturn in the economy, and the increasing consumer awareness that water conservation can save money and help stretch the family budget, I'm often asked, "What are some ways to save both water and money at the same time?"

While there are literally hundreds of ways to save water (and dollars), the following list identifies ways for consumers to save the most water with minimal cost and effort.

10. **Don't water sidewalks and driveways** – make sure your sprinklers are applying water to lawn and planting beds. Watering sidewalks and driveways just wastes water and they won't grow, no matter how much water you apply!
9. **Collect your tap water** – when waiting for the hot water to get hot, collect the "warm up" water in a container to water house plants or outside plantings, no need to let it just run down the drain.
8. **Use a broom instead of a hose to clean your driveway** – good exercise.
7. **Use a bucket and hose spray head to wash your car** – just letting the water run either wastes water down the storm drain or over waters your lawn where the hose runs. Or, you can go to the car wash where this water is properly treated and you can reduce the risk of non-point source pollution.
6. **Take shorter showers** – on average, U.S. residents spend 8 minutes in the shower, using 10 to 12 gallons of water. By reducing your shower by two minutes, you not only save water, but also use less energy because less hot water is used.
5. **Install low-flow shower heads** – there are many new models of low-flow shower heads that behave like the old water-wasters of yesteryear.
4. **Run dish and clothes washers only when full** – this assures the maximum use of the water used to fill the appliance.
3. **Insulate hot water pipes** – this reduces the amount of water needed to heat the pipe to transport hot water to the fixture or appliance.
2. **Fix leaky faucets and plumbing joints** – not only will you save water by fixing leaks, you may also prevent structural water damage that could end up costing hundreds or thousands of dollars to repair.
1. **Water your lawn ONLY when it needs it** – most consumers overwater their lawn and planting areas. Over-watering can be just as hazardous to lawn and landscape health as not

watering enough. Over-watering not only wastes water, it can make plants and turf more susceptible to drought and disease.

By using these water-saving strategies, you get the satisfaction of knowing that you are being a responsible steward of our limited water resources. And you're saving water and money!

We live in a semiarid climate where droughts will always be a part of our environment. Water for our future means conserving now. The Drought Response Information Project (DRIP) is a collaboration between the valley's domestic water utilities and CSU Cooperative Extension to provide information and educate the public about drought and the importance of water conservation.