



The California State Water Project
 The State Water Project, one of the largest water systems in the world, collects water from rivers in Northern California and transports it, through a network of canals, pipelines and tunnels, over many hundreds of miles to Southern California, where it's distributed throughout the region. Along the way, it's lifted almost 3,800 feet, with the highest single lift of 1,926 feet over the Tehachapi Mountains, which separate the San Joaquin Valley from Southern California. To view a short YouTube video that shows the length and complexity of the State Water Project, [click here](#).

The Need to Conserve — — Has Never Been Greater

As California enters its fourth year of drought, water conservation has become vitally important for us all. There are many areas in and around our homes where we can save water, particularly outdoors, where our gardens and lawns receive almost 60% of all the water we use. To learn more about the drought, or to find useful tips for how to conserve water, click the logos to visit:

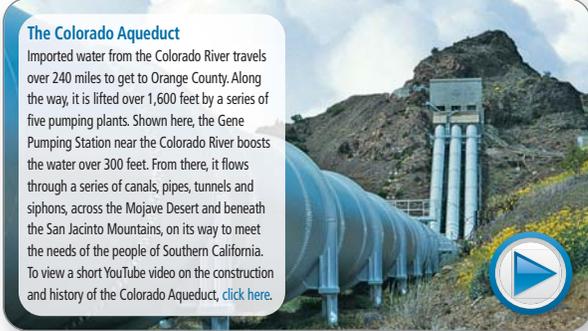
[bewaterwise.com](http://www.bewaterwise.com)®



To learn about programs and devices that can help save water, along with information on rebates for these water saving resources, visit:

www.OCWaterSmart.com

To view a short YouTube video on multiple ways to conserve water, [click here](#).



The Colorado Aqueduct

Imported water from the Colorado River travels over 240 miles to get to Orange County. Along the way, it is lifted over 1,600 feet by a series of five pumping plants. Shown here, the Gene Pumping Station near the Colorado River boosts the water over 300 feet. From there, it flows through a series of canals, pipes, tunnels and siphons, across the Mojave Desert and beneath the San Jacinto Mountains, on its way to meet the needs of the people of Southern California. To view a short YouTube video on the construction and history of the Colorado Aqueduct, [click here](#).

Conservation Tips for Inside Your Home . . .



Collect water used to wash fruits and vegetables:
Use it to water your houseplants

Don't run water to thaw food:
Defrost in the refrigerator

Install aerators on kitchen and bathroom faucets:
Reduces flow to less than 1 gallon per minute



Turn off the water while you brush your teeth:
Saves up to 2.5 gallons per minute

Spend only 5 minutes in the shower:
Saves up to 8 gallons each time

Install low-flow shower heads:
Saves 2.5 gallons per shower

Plug the sink instead of running water to rinse your razor:
Saves up to 300 gallons a month



. . . and More Tips for Outside Your Home

Check your sprinkler system for leaks, overspray and broken sprinkler heads and repair promptly:
Saves up to 500 gallons per month

Use a broom instead of a hose:
Saves up to 150 gallons each time

Water your plants in the early morning or evening:
Saves up to 25 gallons each time

Remove the turf from your yard:
Saves about 42 gallons per square foot/per year

Rain barrels: **Saves about 600 gallons per year**

Rotating nozzles for pop-up spray heads:
Uses 20% less water than conventional sprinkler heads

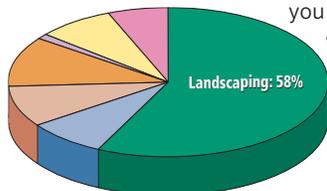
Additional water saving steps and devices are also available, and some of these are eligible for substantial rebates. Consider replacing your lawn with drought tolerant plants, synthetic turf, or permeable hardscape. Add rotating sprinkler nozzles, or a drip line to enhance your automated irrigation system. Adding organic mulch saves hundreds of gallons of water each year.

For complete rebate information for these water saving resources, visit:
www.ocwatersmart.com.

**Talk to your family and friends about saving water.
 If everyone does a little, we all benefit a lot.**

How Residential Water is Used in Orange County

Outdoor watering of lawns and gardens makes up approximately 60% of home water use. By cutting your outdoor watering by 1 or 2 days a week, you can dramatically reduce your overall water use.



● Showers & Baths: 8% ● Dishwashers: 1%
 ● Clothes Washers: 9% ● Leaks: 7%
 ● Toilets: 11% ● Faucets: 6%

Data is representative of average consumption; your water usage may vary.