

# FRESNO WATER SAVER



A Publication of the City of Fresno Water Conservation Program

Friant-Kern Canal

## DROUGHT!



Drought occurs when there is less rainfall than expected over an extended period of time, usually several months or longer. A shortage of rainfall can result in major impacts on agriculture, city water supplies,

tourism and recreation, energy production, river navigation, and the environment.

### Saving Water During a Drought

Due to a serious lack of snow and rainfall the past few years, the Governor declared a Stage 1 drought. Fresno residents were asked to voluntarily reduce their water usage by 10%. If a Stage 2 drought is declared, the public will be notified of other necessary water use restrictions. For more information about what is required if Fresno moves into a Stage 2 drought, visit [www.fresnowater.org](http://www.fresnowater.org).

### Here are simple ways you can save water:

- Fix leaky faucets and toilets immediately
- Replace worn toilet dams and adjust toilet floats
- Do not let water run into the gutters from overwatering landscape. Water only when necessary
- Always use a hose nozzle on your garden hose
- Teach children to turn off the water when brushing their teeth
- Contact the Conservation office if you observe water waste

### Stage I Drought

The City of Fresno Shall:

Initiate a public information program/ media campaign to:

- Notify all customers of the water shortage and the need to conserve water
- Mail information to every customer explaining the importance of significant water use reductions
- Provide practical information to customers on ways to improve water use efficiency
- Publicize and expand the toilet retrofit and other efficiency programs

Request customers to voluntarily reduce their water use by 10%

Increase its water waste patrols to enforce the provisions of the Fresno Municipal Code Section 6-520 Wastage of Water

All drought stages can be found at [www.fresnowater.org](http://www.fresnowater.org)



## Look for the WaterSense Label

Research has shown that by using water-efficient products and practices, homeowners can help save natural resources and reduce their water consumption and costs. In order to realize these savings, consumers need to be able to identify products and services that use less water while performing as well as or better than conventional models.

**WaterSense**, a partnership program sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), is making it easy to find and select water-efficient products with a label backed by independent testing and certification.

In order to use the label, a company must sign a WaterSense partnership agreement. Among other things, the partnership agreement defines the roles and responsibilities of EPA and the partnering organization, as well as proper use of the label on products, on packaging, and in marketing and other promotional materials. Products that bear the WaterSense label meet all the criteria in EPA's specifications for water efficiency and performance.

Generally speaking, WaterSense labeled products will be about 20 percent more water efficient than their less efficient counterparts in the same category. In addition, WaterSense labeled products perform their intended function as well as or better than their less efficient counterparts.

## Find a WaterSense Product

Products that meet WaterSense criteria for water efficiency and performance carry a special label. When you use products bearing the WaterSense label, you can expect exceptional performance, savings on your water bills, and assurance that you are saving water for future generations.

### WaterSense Products and Services

- Bathroom sink faucets
- Flushing urinals
- Landscape irrigation services
- New Homes
- Showerheads
- Toilets
- Weather- or sensor-based irrigation control technologies

A product cannot bear the WaterSense label unless it is tested by an independent third party. When independent testing confirms that a product meets EPA's specifications, it is certified and given the right to display the WaterSense label.

- Find a WaterSense labeled product
- Find rebate programs offered by WaterSense partners

To find a WaterSense product, go to:

<http://www.epa.gov/WaterSense/pp/index.htm>

En Español:

<http://www.epa.gov/WaterSense/esp.htm>

For **KIDS**

<http://www.epa.gov/WaterSense/kids/index.htm>

## SPRING/SUMMER WATER SCHEDULE

The City water schedule changes March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Spring brings a change in City watering regulations. Now is the time for you to set your irrigation controller to reflect the City's Spring/Summer water schedule. You are also encouraged to check your irrigation system.

SUMMER WATERING SCHEDULE MARCH 2 – NOVEMBER 30	
TUESDAY, THURSDAY & SATURDAY ODD NUMBERED ADDRESS (ending in 1, 3, 5, 7, 9)	WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY & SUNDAY EVEN NUMBERED ADDRESSES (ending in 0, 2, 4, 6, 8)
WATER ANYTIME EXCEPT 6 AM TO 8 AM – 11 AM TO 7 PM	
NO WATERING ON MONDAYS	

### Irrigation Check-up

Get ready for the Spring season by testing your irrigation system for leaks, malfunctions and proper spray distribution. Clean the grit out of emitters for efficient spray. Adjust as needed for uniform distribution. This also includes checking the system for leaks, broken heads, faulty valves, and other malfunctions.

Check the hoses for cracks and leaks and replace as needed. You should also check that water isn't being misdirected onto sidewalks, driveways, or streets.

Call for a FREE landscape survey. Our landscape experts will assess the efficiency of irrigation system, and even offer tips about water wise plants. **Call 621-5480 today.**



### Evaporative (Swamp) START-UP!

If you have an evaporative cooler, Spring is a good time to give it a check-up. Clean out the cooler pan and the channel at the top of the pad frame; make sure the pump and fan are operating properly; check for clogs in the distribution pipe and the "spider" pipes, which deliver water to the top of the pads. Make sure pads are evenly wet during operation. Replace pads at least once per cooling season. Through use, they become caked with calcium and magnesium salts, blocking effective cooling.

A helpful brochure entitled, "A Waterwise Guide to Evaporative Coolers" can be found at: <http://www.ose.state.nm.us/water-info/conservation/h2o-outreach.html>

### Replace Old Water Guzzling Toilets!

Since 1992, federal law mandated that all new toilets use no more than 1.6 gallons per flush. If your toilet is a 3.5 or more gallons-per-flush model consider replacing your old water guzzler with a new water efficient model.

Remember, even new toilets can develop leaks. To check for a leak, put 10-15 drops of blue food color into the tank. After 15 minutes, check the toilet bowl for any signs of dye color. If there's color in your bowl, your toilet is leaking.

**Call us about \$75 Toilet Rebates!**



## **FREE Indoor & Outdoor Water Leak Surveys Available!**

Let us help you find indoors and outdoors leaks on your property! This FREE program is available to all commercial/ industrial, multi-family and residential City customers.

Water Conservation staff will conduct an interior and exterior water use survey on your property to locate leaks and also show you how you can easily conserve more water. An appointment can be scheduled at a time that is convenient for you.

Our staff also performs an outdoor landscape audit and an irrigation system evaluation which may locate leaks and other sources of water waste. Our staff will also show you how to set your irrigation timer.

After the survey, the customer is presented with water saving educational literature and other items, including water saving aerators.



## **Water Education Literature Available**

**Call the Conservation office for these items and more!**

### *What You Should Know Before You Mow*

Tips for landscapers, including outdoor watering schedules and water-saving tips, available in Spanish, Hmong and English languages.

### *Creating a Fresno-Friendly Garden*

Plant choices and water conservation tips for our climate.

### *Just Moved In?*

What you need to know about Recycling, Wastewater and Sewer, Operation Clean Up, Water Conservation and More.

### *Landscape Resources*

Things to read, places to visit, web sites!

### *Water Leak Repairs!*

Pamphlet about leak repair.

### *Water Meters Are Coming!*

Water conserving check list.

## **\$\$ Rebates**

The City offers rebates on qualifying water-saving toilets and high efficiency clothes washers. Call the Conservation office for an application.

## **Questions?**

Call 621-5480 if you have any questions about water conservation or if you observe water waste.

