

Water Resources & Conservation

Water-Wise Resources

The Water Resources & Conservation Program is here to help you in your efforts to conserve.

Water bills are mailed every two months (one cycle). It indicates how many units of water (1 unit = 748 gallons) you have consumed in that cycle. The programs offered by the City of Millbrae's Water Resources & Conservation Program will help you save water, which in turn will help to lower your bill.

You can request a graph showing your water consumption for the past four years of water use. This will not only show your consumption pattern, but will also show you how much water is being used for irrigating your landscape during the summer.

This is just one of the many tools and programs offered to assist you in conserving this valuable resource.

Throughout this guide you will find information on rebates, handbooks, brochures, as well as free showerheads, faucet aerators, shower timers, leak detection tablets and water-wise landscaping workshops.

Look on-line at www.ci.millbrae.ca.us/waterconservation or call us at 259.2348 for more information. The free water saving devices and guides can be picked up at the Public Works counter in City Hall.

How much water can a leaking faucet waste?

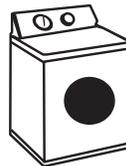


Per Month
Slow steady drip:
350 gallons
Fast drip:
600 gallons

Rebates

High Efficiency Clothes Washers

There are two levels of rebates available for the purchase and installation of qualifying High Efficiency Residential Clothes Washers. Only models on a Qualifying List are eligible for a rebate. Refer to www.waterenergysavings.com for details or the City of Millbrae's website. 1) A \$50 rebate is offered for a Tier 3 model High Efficiency Residential Clothes Washer. 2) A rebate of \$200 is offered for an Energy Star Most Efficient Clothes Washing Machine. This is a combined



rebate offered by the City of Millbrae and PG&E.

High Efficiency Toilets (HETs)

Replace pre-1992 3.5 gallons or greater per flush toilets with high efficiency toilets that use 1.28 gallons per flush or less. Receive up to a \$100.00 rebate for the purchase and installation of each qualifying WaterSense labeled HET toilet (maximum 3 per residence). HETs use 20% less than a standard 1.6 GPF toilet.

Rainwater Harvesting

Rainwater Harvesting rebates are available for the purchase and installation of rain barrels and cisterns. These systems capture rainwater run-off from roofs that can be used for irrigation or other non-potable water applications. Up to a \$100.00 rebate is offered for a maximum of two rebates for rain barrels, or up to a \$250 rebate is offered for one cistern.

For more information on rebates, including qualifications and applications, please visit www.ci.millbrae.ca.us/waterconservation, or call 259-2348. Rebate applications can also be picked up at the City Hall Public Works counter.

How Much Water Do You Use?

	NON-CONSERVING USE	CONSERVING USE
Shower (7-9 minutes)	Regular showerhead: 30 gallons	Low-flow showerhead/restrictor: 15 gallons Wet-down, rinse off: 4 gallons
Toilet Flushing	Conventional toilet: 3 to 7 gallons per flush Average use: 25 gallons per day	High efficiency toilet: 1.28 gallons per flush Average use: 4 to 7 gallons per day
Brushing Teeth	Tap running: 5 to 10 gallons	Wet brush, rinse briefly: Half a gallon or less
Bath	Full tub: 40 to 60 gallons	Minimal water level: 20 gallons or less
Shaving	Tap running: 20 gallons	Fill basin: 1 gallon
Washing Hands	Tap running: 2 gallons or more	Soap and rinse: 1 gallon or less
Dishwashing	Tap running: 30 gallons	Wash and rinse in dishpan or sink: 5 gallons
Automatic Dishwasher	Full cycle: 16 gallons	Short cycle: 7 to 11 gallons
Clothes Washing Machine	Full cycle, top water level: 40 to 60 gallons	Efficient machine: 25 gallons or less

(Source: San Francisco Public Utilities Commission)

Water Conservation Checklist



Use this list to check your water usage. You'll save money on your water and sewer bills by conserving water!

- Toilets have been checked for leaks and the water level is a minimum of 1 inch below the top of the overflow tube. *Free non-toxic dye tablets are available to detect silent toilet leaks that may be costing you \$.*
- Toilets are low flow. *Rebates are available for high efficiency toilets (HETs). See page 1.*
- Low Flow Kitchen faucet aerators, 1.5 gallons per minute -GPM, and bathroom aerators .5 GPM are installed. *See page 3.*
- Low flow 1.5 GPM showerheads are installed. *See page 3.*
- Shower time is reduced to 5 minutes. *See page 3.*
- Water is caught in a bucket or watering can while waiting for water to get hot.
- Check for leaky toilets, faucets and pipes. All are fixed. *Free "Practical Plumbing" Handbooks are available.*
- Only full loads are run in dishwashers and washing machines. *Rebates are available for high efficiency clothes washers. See page 1.*
- Water is turned off while brushing teeth and shaving.
- The garbage disposal is run less frequently by scraping plates and composting food scraps instead.
- Hot water lines are insulated.
- Hoses used for any purpose (including those used for car washing) have shutoff valves.
- Cars are not washed in the driveway, they are taken to a car wash or washed (with a bucket and short rinse) on the lawn, gravel driveway, or area that doesn't drain to the storm drain.
- Hoses are not used to clean sidewalks, driveways, patios, outside walls, parking lots, roofs, awnings or other hard surface areas.
- Planted areas contain mulch (i.e., woodchips, compost, bark, etc.) to maintain moisture.
- Sprinkler heads are checked and adjusted seasonally.
- Drip irrigation systems are used where possible.
- Plants requiring similar amounts of water are grouped together.
- Landscaping is not over watered to produce runoff. *See page 4.*
- Turf grass and other high water use areas are limited to 15% of total parcel area.
- Trees are watered with bubblers or stake type devices to get water to the roots.
- Watering is done between 8:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. in order to reduce water lost to evaporation.



Leaks not seen or heard can waste up to 300 gallons of water per day!

Resource Information

Learn additional ways you can conserve water inside and outside of your home at the following websites.

BAWSCA (Bay Area Water Supply & Conservation Agency)
www.bawasca.org

City of Millbrae Water Resources & Conservation Program
www.ci.millbrae.ca.us/waterconservation

Greywater Action
www.greywateraction.org/greywater-recycling

H2ouse.org
www.h2ouse.org

Lose the Lawn
www.losethelawn.com

Save our H2O
www.saveourh2o.org

WaterSense
www.epa.gov/watersense

How To Read Your Water Meter

NOTE: Use care when lifting the cover. The cover is heavy and is attached to an electronic device. Lift the cover just above the level of the sidewalk and slide it carefully to the side to read the meter.

To check your bill, read only the four white odometer wheels. They indicate units used in figuring your bill. A unit is 100 cubic feet which equals 748 gallons.

To look at your daily consumption, you can also read the two black odometer wheels on the right side of the register. They indicate tens (74.8 gallons) and ones (7.48 gallons) in cubic feet.

To check for small leaks, look at the triangle leak indicator at the center of the register. This will turn clockwise at very low rates of flow. Request a leak detection flyer to help find leaks.



Water Use Regulations & Prohibitions

- Defective plumbing, sprinkler, watering or irrigation systems must be repaired within 10 days of notice.
 - No use of water resulting in runoff or flooding.
 - Hoses must have positive shutoff valve.
 - Covers are required for all new swimming pools and encouraged to be installed for existing pools.
 - New or expanded irrigation systems shall be low water use systems.
 - New service connections must incorporate water-saving fixtures and devices.
 - New landscaping shall be drought resistant and/or designed for low water use to conserve irrigation water.
 - Potable water shall not be used for backfill consolidation or other non-essential construction.
 - Hot water pipes in new or remodeled residences and businesses shall be insulated in all open spaces.
 - No use of water from unmetered outlets or hydrants.
 - No single use of water shall be permitted where recirculation of water is economically and technically feasible.
- Note: Verified water waste could result in a citation.**

FREE RESOURCES

Available at City Hall
Public Works Counter
Monday-Friday,
8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

- 💧 1.5 Gallons per Minute (GPM) Massaging Showerheads
- 💧 0.5 GPM Bathroom Faucet Aerators
- 💧 1.5 GPM Swivel, Dual Spray and Pause Valve Kitchen Faucet Aerators
- 💧 5 Minute Shower Timers
- 💧 Toilet Leak Detection Tablets
- 💧 Flow Meter/Toilet Tank Bags
- 💧 Water-Wise Guides
- 💧 Water-Wise Landscaping

Shower Head Exchange



Bring your water guzzling showerhead to the Public Works counter at City Hall and exchange it for a free 1.5 gallons per minute (GPM) water conserving massage model with a valve that reduces the flow to 1 GPM.

Shower Timers

Help your family to change their shower habits. The 5 minute shower timers are a great way to encourage family members to take shorter showers. Pick one up at the Public Works counter in City Hall.

Water-Wise Landscapes



Learn how to choose the right plant for the right location or how to transform your high water use landscape to a water-wise one by attending a free water-wise landscape workshop.

Bay Area program that features extensive sections on design, irrigation and garden care, a plant library that includes the culture, anatomy and description of over 1,000 plants and photographs of beautiful water-wise Bay Area gardens for ideas.

Workshops are held every spring and fall. The topics include water-wise landscape design, irrigation systems, planting native and low-water use plants, and rainwater harvesting and graywater reuse. Call us for dates and times or look on-line.

For plant ideas, stroll through the grounds of Constitution Plaza & the Millbrae Library and enjoy the beautiful water-wise landscaping. Various trees, plants and groundcovers are highlighted by signs showing either low or moderate water use. Brochures with a map showing the locations of the water-wise plants and trees are available at the Millbrae Library or at the Public Works counter in City Hall.

Go on-line to www.ci.millbrae.ca.us/waterconservation to download the free *Water-Wise Gardening in the*

How Much Water Does My Lawn Need?

To determine how much to water your lawn, use the following guidelines.

Use flat bottom cans, coffee mugs or a gauge and place on the lawn approximately half way between sprinkler heads in order to “grid” the lawn.

Turn on the sprinklers for 15 minutes to measure the depth of water in the mugs, cans or gauge and record the water depth for each location. Determine the average water depth and use the guide below to find out the length of time to water your lawn every 3rd day.

Consider replacing your lawn with native grasses or plants to conserve water. Pick up a free copy of "Local Perennial Native Grasses" and attend one of our water-wise landscaping workshops.

Ave. depth in sprinkler gauge	Approximate watering time (every 3 rd day)			
	<i>-Adjust monthly for water-wise irrigation-</i>			
Inches	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
1"	6 min.	9 min.	6 min.	Turn sprinkler system off.
¾"	8 min.	12 min.	8 min.	
½"	12 min.	18 min.	12 min.	
¼"	24 min.	36 min.	24 min.	

Reminder: Water for short periods. Instead of 15 minutes of irrigation, irrigate for three 5-minute periods with an hour in between. This will help avoid run off and allow water to penetrate the soil.



Be Water-Wise Outside!



These resources are available to help you save water outside:

- 💧 Water-Wise Workshops
- 💧 Lawn Watering Guide
- 💧 Water-Wise Garden Design
- 💧 Gardening for Wildlife with Native Plants
- 💧 Native Plant and Seed Sources
- 💧 On-line Water-Wise Gardening in the Bay Area Program



City of Millbrae - Water Resources & Conservation Program

621 Magnolia Avenue, Millbrae CA 94030 Ph: 650.259.2348 www.ci.millbrae.ca.us/waterconservation

