



# 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 may help to lower your bill.

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.

Millbrae get its water delivered through the San Francisco Regional Water

System from the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, originating from the Tuolumne River. The Hetch Hetchy watershed is located in Yosemite National Park. Spring snowmelt runs down the Tuolumne River and fills Hetch Hetchy, the largest reservoir in the Hetch Hetchy water system. Water is a precious resource and we encourage you to take advantage of the many resources offered to help you conserve water indoors and outdoors. Thank you for your efforts to conserve water!

**Look On-line at:**  
[www.ci.millbrae.ca.us/waterconservation](http://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?*

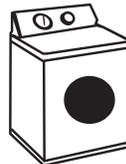


*Per Month*  
Slow steady drip: **350 gallons**  
Fast drip: **600 gallons**

## Rebates

### High Efficiency Clothes Washers

A total rebate of up to \$150 is offered for the purchase and installation of an Energy Star Most Efficient clothes washer. The City of Millbrae pays \$100 and PG&E pays \$50 for a total combined rebate of up to \$150. These clothes washers represent the leading edge in energy efficient products. Only models on the Qualifying List are eligible for a rebate. Refer to [www.waterenergysavings.com](http://www.waterenergysavings.com) or the City of Millbrae's website at [www.ci.millbrae.ca.us/waterconservation](http://www.ci.millbrae.ca.us/waterconservation) for details and updates to the rebate program.



### High Efficiency Toilets (HETs)

Replace your older, higher flow toilets with new efficient models. There are two levels of rebates for high efficiency toilets. The Premium HET toilets flush at 1.06 gallons or less and the rebate amount is up to \$125. The Standard EPA WaterSense Labeled HET toilets flush at 1.28 gallons and the rebate amount is up to \$75. Refer to the application for eligibility and details on the City's website or at [www.bawsca.org](http://www.bawsca.org) (maximum 3 toilet rebates per residence).

### 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](http://www.ci.millbrae.ca.us/waterconservation) or [www.bawsca.org](http://www.bawsca.org), 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](http://www.bawasca.org)

**City of Millbrae Water Resources & Conservation Program**  
[www.ci.millbrae.ca.us/waterconservation](http://www.ci.millbrae.ca.us/waterconservation)

**Greywater Action**  
[www.greywateraction.org/greywater-recycling](http://www.greywateraction.org/greywater-recycling)

**H2ouse.org**  
[www.h2ouse.org](http://www.h2ouse.org)

**Lose the Lawn**  
[www.losethelawn.com](http://www.losethelawn.com)

**Save Our Water**  
[www.saveourwater.com](http://www.saveourwater.com)

**WaterSense**  
[www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense)

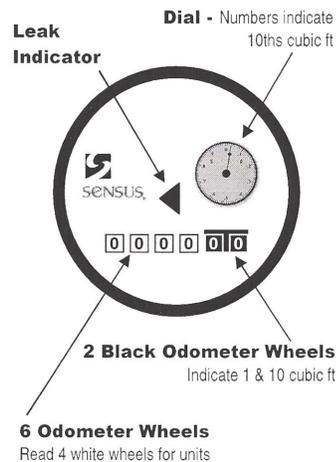
## How To Read Your Water Meter

**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



Over one half of a household's water use is on landscaping! Lawns are generally the single biggest water user for a typical property, which means they offer the greatest potential for water savings. A small lawn can use more than 18,000 gallons of water per year!

Consider eliminating lawn areas and re-landscaping with native and drought tolerant plants and permeable paving materials.

## Resources for Outdoors

- Water-Wise Workshops
- Water-Wise Garden Design
- Gardening for Wildlife with Native Plants
- Native Plant and Seed Sources
- On-Line: Water-Wise Gardening in the Bay Area

## Landscape Watering Tips

- Incorporate organic matter in your soil by adding a three inch layer of compost to increase the water holding capacity to two and a half times more than it would normally hold.
- Water between 8:00 pm and 10:00 am to prevent evaporation. If your grass blades don't spring back after you walk on it, it is time to water.
- Water two days per week and reduce the minutes of watering per day.
- Use the "cycle and soak" method of watering to reduce runoff and water waste. Split your watering time into two cycles for 3-4 minutes each spaced about an hour apart to allow the water to soak in.
- Consider installing drip irrigation systems for plants, bushes and trees.
- Check your sprinkler heads regularly to make sure they work properly. Repair broken, crooked or sunken heads and clogged nozzles. Adjust the spray pattern to prevent sprinklers from watering pavement.
- Replace old fan nozzles with high efficiency nozzles to slow runoff and improve coverage. Check pressure to reduce water waste from misting.
- Hand-water small dry spots rather than turning up the watering schedule for your whole lawn. Lawn areas in the shade (north/east side) will generally require 50% less water than lawns on the sunny side of the house.
- Leave clippings on the lawn as you mow to add nutrients back to the soil.
- Set-up and use graywater from clothes washers, showers and bathroom sinks to water larger plants, such as trees, bushes, berries and shrubs.

## Native & Drought Tolerant Plants

A water-wise drought tolerant landscape allows for a beautiful healthy landscape. Drought tolerant and native plants require minimal supplemental irrigation after the plants are established. The best time to plant is in the late fall prior to when it rains. Attend a workshop to learn more about water-wise landscaping.

## Landscape Planting Tips

- Replacing water-consuming, high-maintenance, traditional landscapes and lawn with California native plants can reduce the average homeowner's water consumption by 60%. Once established, native plants can withstand little or no watering even in extreme drought conditions.
- A water-wise landscape requires less maintenance. A well-designed landscape can decrease maintenance by as much as 50% through reduced mowing, once-a-year mulching, elimination of non-California-friendly plants, and more efficient watering techniques.
- Select plants, trees, shrubs and groundcovers based on their adaptability to this region's soil and climate. For gardening ideas, go to [www.bawasca.watersavingplants.com](http://www.bawasca.watersavingplants.com).



## City of Millbrae - Water Resources & Conservation Program

621 Magnolia Avenue, Millbrae CA 94030 Ph: 650.259.2348 [www.ci.millbrae.ca.us/waterconservation](http://www.ci.millbrae.ca.us/waterconservation)



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