

How Much Water Can I Save?

Think about saving water when using water and you'll find new ways to save. Focus on saving gallons, which become a **hundred** cubic feet (**HCF**) - your water bill's measurement.

16 cups = 1 gallon.

7.48 gallons = 1 cubic foot (CF)

748 gallons = 1 HCF

Doing the following will save the most water:

1. Reducing lawn or removing it (50% of residential use, providing 1" water uses .623 gal./sq ft)
2. Drip system (Drip -1 gal./hour vs. sprinklers -1-2 gal./minute)
3. Garden mulch (Prevents water evaporation)
4. Low flow showerheads (Uses 2 gallons/minute)
Shower vs. tub. (Average tub uses 30 gal.)
5. Low flow faucet aerators (1.5 gal./minute vs 2.2 for standard one)
6. High efficiency toilet. (1.6 gal./flush vs 3.5 gal. or more)
7. Water saving dishwasher (10 gal. vs. up to 25 gal.)
8. High Efficiency (HE) washer (14 vs. 20 gal./load)
9. Watch for leaks and act quickly if you find one.

Many may have already done all or some of the above. The following will add up to additional gallons saved:

In my BATHROOM?

*Take shorter showers. (A minute less saves 2 gal.)

*Brush teeth, then swish using cup (Low flow faucet uses 1.5 gal./min.)

*Rinse hands, turn off water to lather for 20 seconds, then rinse.

In my LAUNDRY?

*Wash full loads whenever possible.

In my KITCHEN?

*Wash full loads in dishwasher.

*By hand, have wash & rinse basins rather than continuously running water. (Save 1.5 gal/min)

*Scrape rather than rinse dishes after use. (Save 1.5 gal/min)

*Store drinking water in the refrigerator.

OUTDOORS?

*Use drought tolerant plants, e.g. succulents, native plants (See Water Wise, www.waterwise.org, Landscape, Native Plants.)

*Recycle indoor water in your watering can to use on plants.

NOTE: Both the City of Buellton and the City of Solvang are offering landscape rebates to users who want to make water reducing changes to their landscaping. Go online to learn more about these programs:

www.cityofbuelltonsustainablelandscaping

www.cityofsolvangwaterconservation

Nancy Emerson, President, WE Watch (a land use and environmental organization focused on the Santa Ynez Valley)