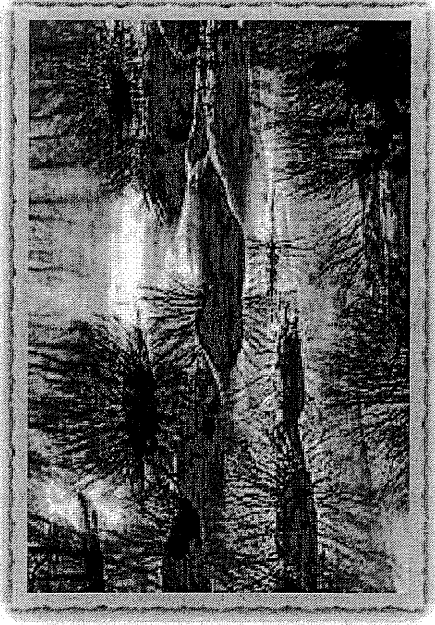
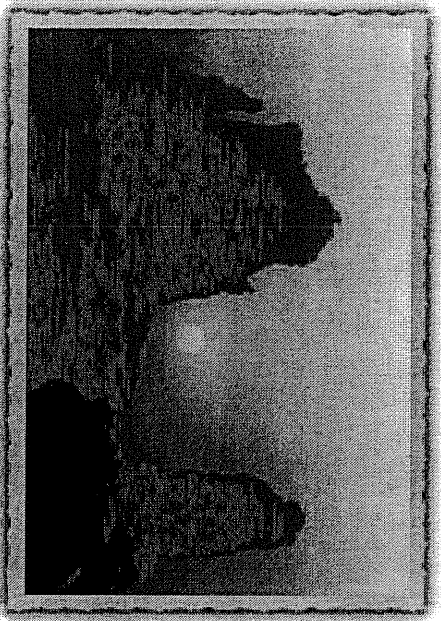


## **2. Ten Ways that you Will Save the Most**

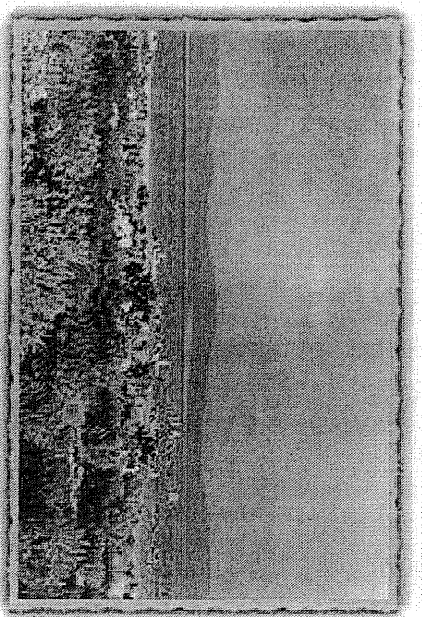
## Ten ways that will save the most:



1. Water your lawn only when it needs it. Step on your grass. If it springs back, when you lift your foot, it doesn't need water. So set your sprinklers for more days in between watering. **Saves 750-1,500 gallons** per month. Better yet, especially in times of drought, water with a hose.
2. Fix leaky faucets and plumbing joints. **Saves 20 gallons** per day for every leak stopped.
3. Don't run the hose while washing your car. Use a bucket of water and a quick hose rinse at the end. **Saves 150 gallons** each time. For a two-car family that's **up to 1,200 gallons** a month.
4. Install water-saving shower heads or flow restrictors. **Saves 500 to 800 gallons** per month.
5. Run only full loads in the washing machine and dishwasher. **Saves 300 to 800 gallons** per month.
6. Shorten your showers. Even a one or two minute reduction can **save up to 700 gallons** per month.
7. Use a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways and sidewalks. **Saves 150 gallons** or more each time. At once a week, that's **more than 600 gallons** a month.
8. Don't use your toilet as an ashtray or wastebasket. **Saves 400 to 600 gallons** per month.
9. Capture tap water. While you wait for hot water to come down the pipes, catch the flow in a watering can to use later on house plants or your garden. **Saves 200 to 300 gallons** per month.
10. Don't water the sidewalks, driveway or gutter. Adjust your sprinklers so that water lands on your lawn or garden where it belongs-- and only there. **Saves 500 gallons** per month.



### **In the bathroom:**



1. Put a plastic bottle or a plastic bag weighted with pebbles and filled with water in your toilet tank. Displacing water in this manner allows you to use less water with each flush. **Saves 5 to 10 gallons** a day. That's **up to 300 gallons** a month, even more for large families. Better yet, for even greater savings, replace your water-guzzling five to seven gallon a flush toilet with a three and a half gallon, low flush, or one and a half gallon, ultra-low flush model.
2. If you're taking a shower, don't waste cold water while waiting for hot water to reach the shower head. Catch that water in a container to use on your outside plants or to flush your toilet. **Saves 200 to 300 gallons** a month.
3. Check toilet for leaks. Put dye tablets or food coloring into the tank. If color appears in the bowl without flushing, there's a leak that should be repaired. **Saves 400 gallons** a month.
4. Turn off the water while brushing your teeth. **Saves three gallons** each day.
5. Turn off the water while shaving. Fill the bottom of the sink with a few inches of water to rinse your razor. **Saves three gallons** each day.



## Outside:

1. Put a layer of mulch around trees and plants. Chunks of bark, peat moss or gravel slows down evaporation. **Saves 750 to 1,500 gallons** a month.
2. If you have a pool, use a pool cover to cut down on evaporation. It will also keep your pool cleaner and reduce the need to add chemicals. **Saves 1,000 gallons** a month.
3. Water during the cool parts of the day. Early morning is better than dusk since it helps prevent the growth of fungus. **Saves 300 gallons**.
4. Don't water the lawn on windy days. There's too much evaporation. **Can waste up to 300 gallons** in one watering.
5. Cut down watering on cool and overcast days and don't water in the rain. Adjust or deactivate automatic sprinklers. **Can save up to 300 gallons** each time.
6. Set lawn mower blades one notch higher. Longer grass means less evaporation. **Saves 500 to 1,500 gallons** each month.
7. Have an evaporative air conditioner? Direct the water drain line to a flower bed, tree base, or lawn.
8. Drive your car onto a lawn to wash it. Rinse water can help water the grass.
9. Tell your children not to play with the garden hose. **Saves 10 gallons** a minute.
10. If you allow your children to play in the sprinklers, make sure it's only when you're watering the yard--if it's not too cool at that time of day.
11. Xeriscape--replace your lawn and high-water-using trees and plants with less thirsty ones. But do this only in wet years. Even drought resistant plantings take extra water to get them going. That'll **save 750 to 1,500 gallons** a month.
12. When taking your car to a car wash--a good idea for saving water--be sure it's one of the many that recycles its wash water.
13. Dispose of hazardous materials properly! One quart of oil can contaminate 250,000 gallons of water, effectively eliminating that much water from our water supply. Contact your city or county for proper waste disposal options.

## In the kitchen and laundry:

1. If you wash dishes by hand--and that's the best way--don't leave the water running for rinsing. If you have two sinks, fill one with rinse water. If you only have one sink, use a spray device or short blasts instead of letting the water run. **Saves 200 to 500 gallons a month.**
2. When washing dishes by hand, use the least amount of detergent possible. This minimizes rinse water needed. **Saves 50 to 150 gallons a month.**



3. Keep a bottle of drinking water in the refrigerator. This beats the wasteful habit of running tap water to cool it for drinking. **Saves 200 to 300 gallons a month.**
4. Don't defrost frozen foods with running water. Either plan ahead by placing frozen items in the refrigerator overnight or defrost them in the microwave. **Saves 50 to 150 gallons a month.**
5. Don't let the faucet run while you clean vegetables. Rinse them in a filled sink or pan. **Saves 150 to 250 gallons a month.**
6. Use the garbage disposal less and the garbage more (even better--compost!). **Saves 50 to 150 gallons a month.**

## While Shopping

Water is an essential ingredient in most manufacturing operations. Especially for those 1 billion of us in the high-consumption class, cutting down on our purchases of material things--from clothes and shoes to paper and appliances--**conserves and protects water supplies as effectively as installing a low-flush toilet does.** As with so many natural resources, as long as prices in the marketplace fail to reflect full social and ecological costs, voluntary changes in consumption patterns will play an important role in the quest for sustainability.

- A kilogram (2.2 lbs) of hamburger or steak produced by a typical California beef cattle operation, for instance, uses some 20,500 liters (5,400 gal.) of water.
- We rarely think about water when we see an automobile, for example, but producing a typical U.S. car requires more than 50 times its weight in water!
- Producing 1 serving (4.3 oz.) of tomatoes requires 8 gallons of water.
- Producing 1 serving (4.6 oz.) of oranges requires 14 gallons of water.
- Producing 1 serving (2 oz.) of pasta requires 36 gallons of water.
- Producing 1 serving (8 fl. oz.) of milk requires 48 gallons of water.
- Producing 1 serving (8 oz.) of chicken requires 330 gallons of water.

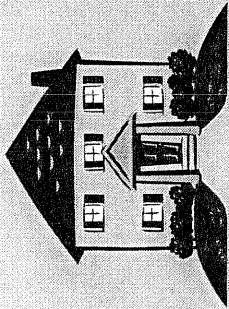
### **3. Your Home. Your Community. Your Environment**





## did you know...

- The activities you carry out around your home could affect local streams, rivers, and lakes even though you may live miles away from those types of wildlife areas.
- Water from a garden hose or a storm can carry automotive and household materials, such as motor oil, fertilizers, household cleaners, and garbage, to local streams, rivers, and lakes through a storm drain.
- One quart of motor oil spilled down a storm drain can contaminate 250,000 gallons of water.
- Lawn clippings and other yard waste deposited in storm drains can affect water quality of creeks and streams.
- Over-application of fertilizer can wash down into a storm drain and enter creeks and streams making algae grow, which deprives fish of oxygen.
- Over-watering lawns can cause soil erosion that could eventually obstruct flood control channels and create seepage problems for your neighbors. Plus, it's a waste of water.



Californians measure their quality of life by the **homes** they live in, the **communities** they work and reside in, and the **natural environment** they rest and recreate in.

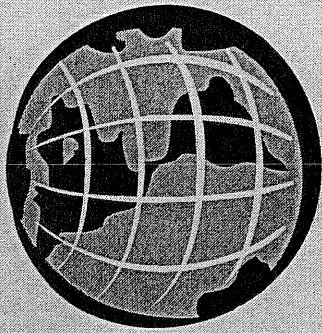
As a California home builder, we've gone to great lengths to **protect the environment** during the construction of your new home.

We would like to thank you for **doing your part** in maintaining a quality of life we can all be proud of for generations to come.

Provided by:



For more information, contact the California Building Industry Association at 916/443-7933 or check out our web site at [www.cbia.org](http://www.cbia.org)



**your home.  
your community.  
your environment.**

Simple things you can do in and around your new home to protect and preserve clean water.





## congratulations on the purchase of your new home!

As you begin to work on making your new house your home, California's home builders want to remind you of the **important role you can play** in protecting and preserving our state's valuable water resources and environment.

How you perform the special and routine activities designed to maintain the beauty and comfort of your home – from painting a room to caring for your lawn and garden – **can have a significant impact** on the quality of California's water resources and the region's environment.

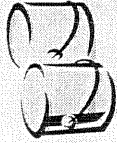
When your home was built, **extensive precautions were taken by home builders** to prevent the local creeks,

streams, and waterways from being polluted by water runoff and debris at the construction site. The low plastic fences and hay bales you may have seen in the construction areas represent the types of environmental management measures used to limit erosion and storm water runoff.

**Now it is your turn.** Here are several simple suggestions for you to follow to do your part in keeping water clean for your community and the environment.

## what you can do to help keep the water clean...

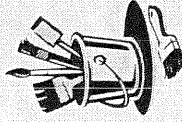
Properly use and store all toxic products, including solvents, paints and cleaners. Use completely paint cleaners and other products or share leftovers with a neighbor.



Take household hazardous materials containers, such as pesticides and used motor oil to a hazardous material collection center. Contact the County for the nearest location.

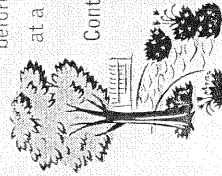


Use kity litter or other absorbent materials to clean spills, rather than hosing down spills. Depending on the substance, dispose used absorbent materials in the trash can or at a hazardous materials collection center.



Rinse water-based paint brushes in the sink. Filter and reuse paint thinner or brush cleaners. Dispose of used thinner, oil and latex paint at a hazardous materials collection center.

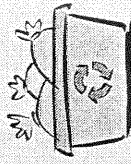
Use pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers in accordance with label instructions. Do not apply before rain and always dispose of leftovers at a hazardous materials collections center.



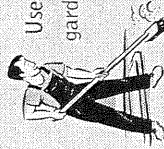
Control erosion during landscaping projects to prevent dirt and debris from entering storm drains.

## ...and preserve the environment.

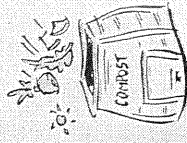
Conserve water by using landscaping materials that are suited to your climate.



Throw all rubbish in tightly sealed trash cans. Recycle reusable materials, but be sure materials won't blow out of the recycling bin before they are collected. Pick up and properly dispose of litter in your neighborhood.



Use a broom rather than a hose to clean up garden clippings. Put leaves and clippings in a trash can or a compost pile.



Divert rain spouts and garden hoses away from paved surfaces and onto grass to allow water to filter through the soil.

Program your watering system to water less during the rainy season, and remember to turn the sprinklers off on expected rainy days.



Conserve water when washing your car. Wash engines at a 'Do it Yourself Car Wash' where the drainage is not connected to the storm drain.



Pick up animal waste and dispose in the trash can.