



OUR WATER SUPPLY



How Much Water should I be Using NOW?

Redwood City's Water Use Allocation Program

Has the Answer!

These are questions that homeowners in Redwood City frequently ask—and they're good ones to think about as we head toward spring and summer. We don't know when a drought will hit, but taking advantage of the City's **Water Use Allocation Program** is a first step in being well-prepared for the next drought.

During the last drought in 1988-1993, Redwood City water customers were asked to reduce their water use based on a percentage of the amount of water they had used in a previous "base year."

But because this method did *not* consider a customer's type of use or previous water conservation efforts, it actually penalized those who had been conserving, while rewarding those who had used water inefficiently.

All that is changed now, with the Water Use Allocation Program, introduced in 2001. This provides a fair and equitable way to distribute water during possible future droughts, taking into consideration the individual customer needs and their overall conservation efforts, instead of relying only on prior years' consumption.

The Water Use Allocation Program looks at the number of people in your household, the size and type of landscape in your yard, the size of your swimming pool, and any other

www.redwoodcity.org/conservation



How Much Water can I Use During a Drought?

special needs for water. With that information, the program determines the amount of water you typically should be using under *normal* conditions to maintain your household. That becomes your **Water Allocation Target**. Then, any water use reductions required in the event of a severe drought are based on that target.

It's easy to get your Water Allocation Target—just complete a survey form online at www.redwoodcity.org/conservation—go to "How to Conserve Water at Home" and click on "Water Allocation Program." You can either email the survey to us, or print a copy and send it in. Of course you can always contact us at 780-7436 to have one sent to your home.

"It's easy to get your Water Allocation Target! Visit www.redwoodcity.org/conservation or call 780-7436"

While you're online, take a look at the example of how the Water Use Allocation Program works. You'll see that conserving water now will make it much easier to reduce your water use later in the event of a drought.

Of course any necessary reductions, and whether they're mandatory or voluntary, will depend on the severity of the drought. The best idea is to be water-wise now so that when the next drought hits, your household will be in good shape to handle any reductions that might be needed.

650-780-7436

Irrigation System Tune-Up Time!

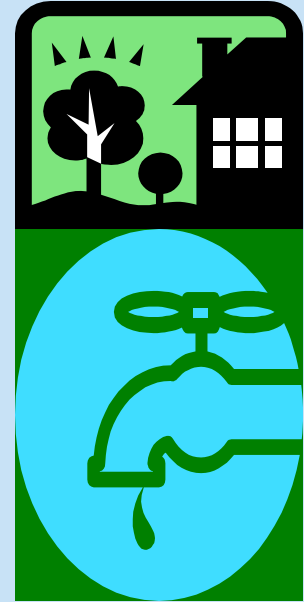
Now is the time to check your sprinkler system and make sure it's working correctly—get ready for spring and summer so your lawn and garden will look good while you save water!



1. **Turn on each watering station** and inspect the sprinklers in order to make sure they are not leaking, clogged, or misaligned.

2. **Trim grass or shrubs around the sprinklers** and adjust the sprinkler heads so that they water the planting area and avoid over-spraying.

3. **Inspect your sprinkler timer/controller**, replace the back-up battery, and make sure the date and time are correct. Then, adjust the watering schedule to meet the spring season watering requirement.



**Maximize Water Savings
In Your Home's
Outdoor
Landscaping!**

Handy phone numbers for answers to your water questions!

Water conservation.....[780-7436](tel:780-7436)
Billing questions.....[780-7210](tel:780-7210)
Water quality, water system maintenance, recycled water, sewer back-ups, and creeks and storm drains.....[780-7464](tel:780-7464)

Did you know you can schedule a free SMART Home Water Use House Call?



Just call for an appointment!
Our technician will visit your home and:

- Evaluate your irrigation system
- Measure your landscaped areas
- Recommend an efficient watering schedule
- Demonstrate how to shut off your water in an emergency
- Offer smart water-use recommendations and water saving tips

Visit www.redwoodcity.org/conservation or call **780-7436** and we'll give you the tools to save water, and money.