

6 ACTIONABLE STEPS

To Eliminating Water Waste

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California is now in the third year of a severe drought, and officials are urging residents and businesses to save water wherever they can. As reservoirs continue to shrink and supplies dwindle, water providers throughout the state are urging customers to take a hard look at their current water use and find ways to be more water-efficient. While one person's water habits will not

end the drought, if we each do just a little more, we can endure this water crisis together.

Whether you are a homeowner, apartment dweller, or business owner, a good place to start is with a water audit. Here are six (6) actionable steps that you can follow to better understand your water footprint and eliminate water waste.



1

CALCULATE YOUR WATER USE.

Find your water footprint, including tap water and virtual water used to produce electricity, food, and other goods. Visit www.watercalculator.org/ to identify changes you can make today.

2

UNCOVER PROBLEMS BY REVIEWING YOUR WATER BILL.

Use a 90-day billing period as your seasonal standard. If you see a big jump in water use, you may have a leak or can identify what event caused it and make adjustments.

3

CHECK FOR LEAKS.

On average, nearly 15% of residential water is lost through leaks. Take a walk around your home and yard. Inspect faucets, toilets, and irrigation systems. If you see evidence of a leak, fix it or report it to your property manager ASAP.

4

EVALUATE THE EFFICIENCY OF YOUR FIXTURES AND APPLIANCES.

A simple retrofit or appliance replacement can save a lot of water! Visit www.mwdoc.com/savewater to find rebates on indoor and outdoor, residential, and commercial water-saving devices.

5

GET BACK TO BASICS.

Refer back to age-old tips for some of the easiest and least expensive ways to save water. Did you know? Cutting down your shower time by just three (3) minutes will save more than 2,000 gallons per person per year. For 99 more tried-and-true water-saving tips, visit www.wateruseitwisely.com.

6

TEACH AND EMPLOY OTHERS.

Be an advocate for efficient water use and eliminating water waste. Share water-saving tips and good habits with friends, family, and others and encourage them to do the same. One drop in the bucket turns to two, then four, then eight. Using water efficiently every day is our least costly method to extend our limited water supply.