

6 THINGS TO KNOW!

About Transforming Your Landscape

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There are plenty of reasons for making the switch to water-smart landscaping. You may want to enhance your curb appeal or save time on weekly maintenance. Maybe incentives or the allure of saving money on your water bill inspires you. Or, perhaps, you want to do your part to save water. Regardless of your motivation, it has never been easier to transform your yard into an easy-care, water-smart landscape that can beautify your space, help reduce your overall water consumption, and improve the local ecosystem.

Did you know? Winter is an excellent time to plan your landscape transformation. Leaves have fallen, and many plants have gone dormant for the winter. This is your window to get a clear perspective of your overall design space. By following a few practical steps, you'll be prepared for early spring planting and enjoying a beautiful, low-water, low-maintenance yard in no time!



1

PLAN FOR SUCCESS.

Create a design map. Consider areas for play, relaxation, and entertainment. Notate areas that get the most shade and sun to determine your irrigation needs, plant selection, and placement. Collect ideas from neighboring yards, and explore FREE landscape designs at mwdoc.com/freelandscapedesigns.

2

EXAMINE YOUR SOIL.

Most native plants thrive in native soils without any soil amendment. However, if your soil is compacted, consider adding organic compost or shredded leaves to improve water flow, absorption, and retention.

3

PICK YOUR PLANTS.

Did you know? California is home to thousands of drought-tolerant plant varieties that perform better in our semi-arid climate. Identify your favorites at ocwatersmartgardens.com and create a plant list that you can print and take to your local nursery or garden center.

4

CONSIDER IRRIGATION OPTIONS.

Whether creating a water-smart landscape from scratch or updating your existing design, ensure your irrigation equipment is appropriate for the space, water-efficient, and in good working condition. These are a few of the easiest ways to save water, time, AND money.

5

EXPLORE INCENTIVES.

MWD OC offers a variety of rebates that support most water-smart landscape design projects. Now is the time to consider replacing unused grass and outdated irrigation equipment with water-efficient plants and water-saving devices. Visit mwdoc.com/rebates to learn more.

6

INSPECT AND MAINTAIN.

Healthy plants require less water and maintenance. Inspect your plants and irrigation system regularly. Look for signs of over- or under-watering, and fix leaks immediately. Install a smart irrigation timer that adjusts the watering schedule based on current weather conditions. Visit mwdoc.com/timer to learn more.