

6 QUICK TIPS!

To Conserve Water Under SB 606

**Joe Berg, Director of Water Use Efficiency
Municipal Water District of Orange County**

As Southern California continues to deal with climate extremes, the region is stepping up its water use efficiency game to comply with Senate Bill 606 (SB 606)—a transformative law enacted in 2018. Data from our [Flume](#) dashboard shows a five-year average water usage of 129.2 gallons per person per day for indoor and outdoor needs, with landscape irrigation accounting for as much as 68 percent of that total. This legislation establishes ambitious efficiency targets for cities and farms, fueling creative solutions in places like Los Angeles, San Diego, and Orange County to build a sustainable future.

From wastewater recycling to low-impact landscaping, these efforts are making a difference. The key is balancing our needs with nature's shrinking limits, especially as summers turn hotter and drier. Luckily, you can support SB 606's mission with simple, water-smart habits at home. Here are six (6) tips to help you cut usage, save money, and keep Southern California thriving through any dry spell.

Here are some suggestions to get you started:



1 TAKE NOTE.

Check out the Alliance for Water Efficiency's Home [Water Works and Water Use Calculator](#). Answer a few simple questions, and the water calculator quickly estimates how much water is used for toilets, showers, clothes washers, faucets, dishwashers, and leaks. The Water Use Calculator tells you where and how to increase water efficiency in your home by identifying the end uses where water can be saved and where a high-efficiency level has already been achieved.

2 TAKE THE PLUNGE.

Swap thirsty lawns for drought-tolerant natives—most agencies offer rebates for a variety of landscape water-saving improvements under SB 606. A quick monthly sprinkler check can also stop waste. Every gallon saved helps hit those regional water goals!

3 KEEP YOUR COOL.

Water plants early in the morning or late to dodge evaporation and use drip irrigation to avoid runoff and overspray for precision. MWDOC offers Spray-to-Drip rebates, available [HERE](#). Indoors, run full loads of laundry or dishes to save gallons—SB 606's drought plans thrive when we all pitch in.

4 MULCH, MULCH, MULCH.

Spread mulch around plants to lock in moisture and shield roots from heat. It's a drought-friendly trick that cuts watering needs, inhibits weed growth, and keeps your yard thriving—perfect for meeting SB 606's urban efficiency standards.

5 MADE IN THE SHADE.

A shaded garden can help retain soil moisture and reduce moisture lost through transpiration. By adding a shade sail or umbrella, you and your plants can stay cool and productive while using less water outdoors.

6 RECYCLE AND REUSE.

Capture shower warm-up water in a bucket for plants or cleaning. Southern California's recycling champs, like Orange County's Groundwater Replenishment System, prove every drop counts. Reusing greywater where safe is an easy way to support the region's wastewater-to-tap push.