



Water Conservation Tips



When we use less water, we are taking an initiative to reduce water pollution. The City of Del Mar's Clean Water Program was developed to protect our natural resources such as lagoons, beaches and the Pacific Ocean. For more information on the Clean Water Program, please visit the [program's webpage](#).

- There are multiple techniques that you can utilize to conserve water and prevent pollution, including:
 - Native vegetation and maintenance
 - "California Friendly" plants or native vegetation can significantly reduce water use. These plants often require far less fertilizers and pesticides. Replacing "thirsty" plants and grasses with water efficient native plants is a great way to save water and reduce the need for potentially harmful pesticides and fertilizer.
 - Weed free yards
 - Weeds are water thieves. They often reproduce quickly and rob your yard of both water and nutrients. Weed your yard by hand if possible. If you use herbicides to control the weeds, use only the amount recommended on the label and never use it if rain is forecasted within the next 48 hours.
 - Soil amendments
 - Soil amendments such as green waste (e.g., grass clippings, compost, etc.) can be a significant source of nutrients and can help retain soil moisture. However, green waste can cause algae blooms and oxygen depletion if allowed to decompose in our waterways. It is important to apply soil amendments more than 48 hours prior to predicted rainfall and till amendments into the topsoil.
 - Irrigate efficiently
 - Install *Smart Irrigation Controllers*
 - Smart Irrigation Controllers have internal clocks as well as sensors that will turn off the sprinklers in response to environmental changes. If it is raining, too windy or too cold, the smart irrigation control sprinklers will automatically shut off.
 - Aim your sprinklers at your lawn/gardens, not the street
 - By simply adjusting the direction of your sprinklers you can save water, prevent water pollution from runoff, keep your lawn healthy and save money
 - Set a timer for your sprinklers
 - Lawns/gardens absorb the water they need to stay healthy within a few minutes if turning on the sprinklers. Time your sprinklers, when water begins running off your lawn/garden, you can turn them off. Your timer can be set to water your lawn for this duration every time and prevent excess runoff.
 - Use low flow irrigation
 - Switching to low flow irrigation (drip) can help control flows and direction of irrigation runoff. It also uses less water.

For more information, please contact the City of Del Mar Clean Water Program

cleanwater@delmar.ca.us

(858) 755-9313 ext. 172