



# CONSERVING WATER DURING THE DROUGHT

## Tips for Small Businesses

### Build Employee Awareness

- Educate employees on the severity of the drought and need to conserve water.
- Install signs that encourage water conservation in restrooms or work areas where water is used.
- Publish your organization's monthly water use to show progress toward water-saving goals.
- Seek employee suggestions of water conservation ideas.

### Conserving Water Inside

- Urge employees to turn the water off while washing hands or dishes.
- Detect and repair leaks - Are there dripping faucets, toilet tanks that don't seal, or leaking hoses?
- Install efficient showerheads, faucet aerators in sinks, and low-flow toilets.

### Take Advantage of Assistance from EBMUD

- Order free posters, and signs for restaurants and hotels ( <https://www.ebmud.com/products/drought-items>)
- Sign up for a free on-site water survey.
- Take advantage of rebates and incentives for: a high-efficiency toilet, lawn conversion, water-efficient spray nozzles, and high-efficient water broom (under "Commercial Conservation Rebates and Services")

### Eliminate Unnecessary Water Use Outside

- Avoid runoff. Set sprinklers to cover only lawn or garden, not sidewalks or driveways.
- Mulch around plants and trees to retain moisture and prevent weeds.
- Minimize lawns. Lawns use more water than any other landscape plants.
- Plant native plants adapted to local climate and rainfall.
- Use drip and other low-flow irrigation.
- Always use a broom to clean walkways, driveways, and entrances rather than a hose.
- Employ smart irrigation equipment such as rain shut-off devices, moisture sensors, and weather based irrigation controllers.

### Download Signs & More

- [saveourwater.com](http://saveourwater.com) offers a free tool kit for businesses to help you save water in the workplace every day. Materials are designed to be customized with your organization's logo and other key information.

### Get Tips for Your Specific Type of Business

- The California Dept. of Water Resources and EPA "WaterSense" offer tips for specific types of businesses:
- Tips for restaurants: <http://www.water.ca.gov/wateruseefficiency/docs/Restaurants.pdf>

