



New Mexico Environment Department

Water Conservation Tips for New Mexicans

The current drought is requiring all New Mexicans to be conscious about their water use. Below are tips all New Mexicans can do to help protect water resources and reduce consumption:

1. **Know your water supplier**– check with your water provider for any existing water restrictions. The cities of Albuquerque, Las Cruces, and Santa Fe all have water conservation programs with mandatory water use restrictions.
2. **Check for leaks inside the home**– the toilet flapper is the number one household fixture that leaks, and a faulty flapper is silent and can often go unnoticed.
3. **Make sure all you faucets and shower heads are low flow**- (2.5 gallons per minute or less).
4. **Limit outdoor irrigation to early morning and late evening**–to minimize evaporation. Also check to make sure irrigation systems are working properly, and use only the minimum amount of water that your landscape requires.
5. **Check outdoor plumbing and fixtures for leaks**– and promptly repair any if found.
6. **Make sure your swamp cooler is in proper working order**– and does not leak.
7. **Take showers instead of baths**– and make them short.
8. **Turn off faucets for kitchen and bathroom while doing tasks**– instead of running them constantly—use only what you need.
9. **Only run full loads in your washing machine and dishwasher.**
10. Keep your yard beautiful and green with **low-water-use native or adaptive plants that thrive in our climate and save water**. Visit the State Engineer’s website for a list of water-friendly landscape options. You can find a list at: <http://wuc.ose.state.nm.us/Plants/>

For more information, please visit the

New Mexico Environment Department website at
www.nmenv.state.nm.us and the Office of the State Engineer website
at **www.ose.state.nm.us**.