



Sustainable Practices - Droughts & Water Conservation



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ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY

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How much water do you think the average person uses each day? 50 gallons? 100 gallons? The average person uses about 123 gallons of water daily. Some individual activities and the amount of water consumed are listed below:

Activity	Water used
Shower (5 minute shower)	25-50 gallons
Brushing teeth (water running)	1-2 gallons
Shaving (water running)	10-15 gallons
Washing dishes by hand	20 gallons
Washing dishes in dishwasher	9-12 gallons
Flushing toilet	5-7 gallons

California experiences periodic droughts which make it necessary for the USC Community to conserve water and protect this valuable resource.

What is USC doing to conserve water?

- USC has given special attention to ensuring the adequate watering of campus green areas, while preventing wasteful over-watering.
- Facilities Management Services utilizes a central irrigation system on the University Park Campus which helps offset irrigation by sensing wind levels, gauging rainfall, sensing soil moisture levels, etc.
- USC installs low flow shower heads in its residence halls and retrofits toilets with low water flow models that use much less water.

What can you do to conserve water?

Water is one of our greatest natural resources. It meets our daily needs for drinking, cooking, cleaning, bathing, and recreation. Installation of water efficient fixtures/appliances and wise usage will keep water in good supply.

Toilets

- Flush only when necessary. Don't use your toilet to dispose of trash.
- Install a water saving displacement device. For older toilets, buy or make a device such as a toilet dam or weighted plastic jug full of water. Be sure that the device doesn't interfere with moving parts.

Sinks

- Fill the sink with water instead of running it when you shave or brush your teeth.
- Repair leaks and attend to drips promptly.

Kitchen

- Instead of running the tap to cool water, keep a pitcher in the refrigerator.
- Scrape dishes, but don't pre-rinse. Soak pots and pans before washing. Instead of running water continuously, fill wash and rinse basins with water.

Laundry

- Economize. Do only full loads. Avoid using extra cycles. Inspect all connections to make sure they are tight and dry.
- Use the load selector to match water level to size of load. Presoak heavily soiled items.

For more information regarding water conservation in your home, go to <http://www.h2ouse.org>, a website developed by the California Urban Water Conservation Council (CUWCC). Los Angeles County Waterworks is a member of the CUWCC.

Please contact EH&S at 213-740-6448 for more information.

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