

Water Conservation's 3 Rs

Follow the 3 Rules of water conservation outside and inside your home. It's easy!

Reduce

- Use a broom to clean your driveway or sidewalk, not your hose.
- Instead of letting the hose run when washing your car, use a bucket or a hose nozzle shut off. Better yet, find a professional carwash that recycles water.
- Run only full loads in the dishwasher. Only a few dishes? Wash them by hand.
- Take shorter showers.
- Defrost frozen foods in the refrigerator overnight or in the microwave.
- Turn off the water while shaving or brushing your teeth.
- While waiting for hot water, capture the cold water in a container to use on your houseplants.
- Composting saves water, reduces food waste, adds nutrients to soil and improves water absorption. For discount compost and worm bins*, call the Environmental Resources Division at 385-8060.

Repair

- Check for toilet leaks and replace worn out toilet flappers.
- Fix leaky faucets and plumbing joints inside and outside your home.

Retrofit

- Install a smart controller for your irrigation system.
- Install WaterSense and ENERGY STAR appliances to save both water and energy.
- Install a high efficiency clothes washer. Rebates* on qualified clothes washers are available.
- Install a hot water on-demand recirculation system.
- Make sure your house is equipped with low flow shower heads, faucet aerators and toilets.
- Retrofit your pre-1992 toilets with high-efficiency toilets. Rebates* are available.

*Rebates and special offers are available to Oxnard residents for a limited time only or while supplies last.

Seven Steps to a Water Wise Garden



1. Planning and Design: When selecting trees, shrubs, ground covers, perennials and annuals for your garden, look for those that naturally grow together and group them by water needs.

2. Turf (Lawn): In the front yard, consider new ways to increase curb appeal with minimal turf. Green lawns are the thirstiest plants of all. There are countless combinations of ground cover, shrubs, and perennials that can be used instead of turf.

3. Choose Water Wise Plants: The City of Oxnard has a Mediterranean climate, with an average annual rain fall of 14-16 inches. Fortunately, there are many plants to choose from that are well suited to areas of low annual rainfall. For more ideas check out the gardening section at one of Oxnard's Libraries and visit www.bewaterwise.com.

4. Improve Soil: Most soils in the Oxnard area are sandy or heavy clay and need to have organic matter added to improve their condition. Compost and manure will help the soil absorb more water. This is an important initial step and it will never be easier to do than before you begin planting.

5. Mulch: Mulch provides a protective layer that when placed over the soil locks in moisture, moderates soil temperature and suppresses weeds.

6. Appropriate Irrigation Methods: Most home landscapes receive more water than they need. Instead of over watering, install an automatic irrigation system that can deliver water in adjustable increments. Adjust sprinklers as suggested for each season. Use drip irrigation where feasible to water specific plants without watering adjacent soil. This will also help prevent run off.

7. Maintenance: No garden is maintenance free. Take pride in your water wise California Friendly® garden, keep it free of weeds and prune your plants as needed. When possible, use organic material to amend soil and fertilize plants.

California Friendly® Demonstration Garden Open to the Public

Visit Oxnard's California Friendly® demonstration garden and become inspired to create your own water wise garden. This demonstration garden is funded by the City of Oxnard's Water Resources Division in partnership with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

Demonstration Garden Location

The South Oxnard Branch Library
4300 Saviers Road

The Water Resources Division's goal is to continue to create demonstration gardens throughout Oxnard, with unique designs and low maintenance features.

For more information on rebates and conservation tips contact Oxnard's Water Conservation Outreach Services at (805) 385-8339.



Public Works Department
WATER RESOURCES DIVISION

Wondering Who to Call?

Contact the Public Works Call Center at 385-8136:

- Streets, Traffic Signs & Markings
- Traffic Engineering
- Public Works Construction Projects
- Water-related Inquiries

Other Frequently Called Numbers

Environmental Resources (Refuse & Recycling)	385-8060
Wastewater	488-3517
Parks	385-7950
24-Hour Graffiti Hotline	385-8010
Utility Billing	385-7816

www.ci.oxnard.ca.us

*Water Wise
Home and Garden Tips*

Discover California Friendly®



California Friendly® Landscaping

Do your part to conserve one of California's most precious natural resources, water. A California Friendly® garden can be easily incorporated into your yard or patio to create a beautiful, attractive, water wise retreat from the outside world.

Careful planning and preparation are key elements to consider when designing your garden. Use the Seven Steps to a Water Wise garden discussed in this brochure to help you get started. Be creative when designing your garden, and have fun!

Keep in mind, a successful garden is filled with plants that naturally thrive in your area. A thoughtful garden design and appropriate watering schedule are the main means to conserve water, reduce maintenance, and lower your water bills.

Single Family Homes

Select a garden to meet your family's needs: choose a landscape for entertaining, a family landscape with play areas, or a low maintenance landscape for people with busy schedules. A well designed yard or patio encourages a variety of activities from entertaining to relaxing.

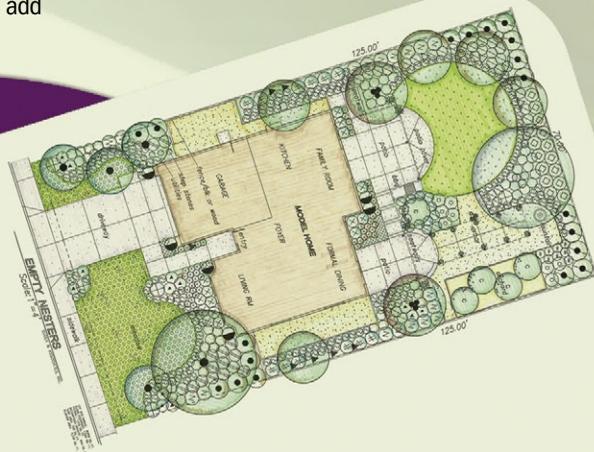
Consider reducing lawn areas, which have twice the water requirements of many other plants. Most people tend to over water their yards; do not let this happen to you! Learn when and how much to water.

When choosing plants for your garden, consider soil type, water needs and sun exposure. Start the framework of your garden by selecting trees, shrubs, and ground covers. Then fill your landscape with colorful accents using a variety of flowering plants. To help small gardens appear larger, use raised beds which add beauty and height to a flat landscape.

You Can Make a Difference!

Do your part and help California meet its current and future water needs.

Learn how to conserve water. Visit bewaterwise.com to learn about a variety of water wise gardens.



There are many water wise plants to choose from for your California Friendly® garden. Check out the South Oxnard Branch Library for gardening and landscaping books. Also visit the Library's Demonstration Garden for landscape design and plant selection ideas. For a comprehensive California Friendly® plant list and ready-to-use garden plans prepared by landscape architects, visit www.bewaterwise.com.

Suggested Water Wise Plants

Trees

Carrotwood (*Cupaniopsis anacardioides*) – Carrotwood is a fast growing evergreen tree that grows to a height of 35 feet.

Shrubs

Agave (*Agava attenuata*) – Agave is a striking succulent which develops a stout trunk 5 feet tall.

Blue Hibiscus (*Alyogyne huegelii*) – Blue Hibiscus is an evergreen shrub that grows 5 to 8 feet tall and wide.

Ground Cover

Beach Strawberry (*Fragaria chiloensis*) – Beach Strawberry is a ground cover which produces white flowers in spring.

Grasses and Grass-Like Plants

Giant Feather Grass (*Stipa Gigantea*) – Giant Feather Grass forms an evergreen clump 3 feet high and wide.

Other Considerations for a Water Wise Garden

Create a watering schedule tailored to your garden, and set your sprinkler controller accordingly. If both turf areas and shrubs are watered by the same sprinkler, they will receive the same amount of water - whether they need it or not.

Adjust watering time for seasonal weather changes, and turn the controller off when it rains. Better yet, install a smart controller that automatically adjusts the watering time and frequency based on soil moisture, rain, wind, and evaporation rate.

Use bubblers, drip irrigation or low-volume spray heads in planter beds and shrub areas.

An irrigation system that has leaks, broken parts and is not functioning properly can be the biggest water-waster of all. Inspect and repair your irrigation system on a regular basis.

Do not forget to mulch: apply a 3-inch layer of mulch or compost around plants to promote plant growth, reduce evaporation and suppress weeds.

If you plan on installing a new walkway, choose porous materials such as paving stones, set in sand or gravel. This allows water to drain naturally into the ground, and will help avoid unnecessary runoff which contributes to erosion and pollution.

Apartments and Condominiums

Designing an outdoor living area in a small space can be challenging. Planting water wise plants in garden containers will allow you to enjoy nature on your patio, while conserving water. These suggestions can help your space be beautiful and water wise.

If your patio is paved, use containers and flower baskets for your planting areas. Select a single anchoring plant that can live year after year. Situate filler plants around the taller anchoring plant and surround the edges with trailing plants that hang gently over the sides of the container. Use appropriate potting soil, and fertilize regularly, as plants will deplete the nutrients in the soil quickly. Top-dress with a layer of mulch over the soil to lock in moisture. Finally, arrange garden containers so they shade one another.

A patio that is not completely paved allows for more flexibility to create an enjoyable outdoor space. Start with identifying locations for your patio surfaces and planting areas. Install porous patio surfaces such as flagstone set in gravel or paving stones set in sand which allow water to soak into the ground.

Suggested Water Wise Plants

Anchoring Plants

New Zealand Flax (*Phormium 'Jack Spratt'*) – New Zealand Flax is a low growing, grass-like perennial that can reach 1.5 feet tall.

Filler Plants

Rosemary (*Rosmarinus 'Huntington Carpet'*) – Rosemary is a ground cover with light blue flowers. It is cultivated for its culinary and ornamental value.

Tickseed (*Coreopsis grandiflora 'Flying Saucer'*) – Tickseed is a fast growing herbaceous perennial with green leaves and striking yellow blooms.

Trailing Plants

Creeping Thyme (*Thymus serpyllum*) – Creeping Thyme forms a dense, fragrant green mat 3 inches high, and blooms in spring and summer.

Lantana (*Patriot™ Classic Passion*) – Lantana has vibrant colored flowers and is heat tolerant.

Shrubs

Skyrocket Juniper (*Juniperus scopulorum*) – Skyrocket Juniper is ideal for a patio that is not completely paved. It is striking planted in clusters along a fence or wall, and is suitable where space is limited. It grows 12 to 15 feet tall and only 2 feet wide.

Water Wise Recommendation

Consider the use of a drip irrigation system for planting beds. It saves water and prevents water from flowing onto patio surfaces, exterior house walls and fencing.



Creeping Thyme



Agave



Lantana



Giant Feather Grass



Blue Hibiscus



Beach Strawberry



New Zealand Flax