

WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

In the Kitchen

- Wash only full loads in your dishwasher; it takes the same amount of water to wash a half load as it does a full load.
- Check for leaking pipes and faucets; small leaks that are not repaired immediately can waste more than 50 gallons of water a day, or 2,500 gallons per year.
- Clean vegetables by washing them in a bowl of water, then reuse the water to water your plants.

In the Bathroom

- Check for toilet tank leaks - place a few drops of food coloring in your toilet tank, if you see the food coloring seep into the bowl, you have a leak.
- Install low-flow shower heads, they can save up to eight gallons of water each minute the shower is used, or 4,800 gallons per person each year.
- Turn off the water while brushing your teeth.

In the Laundry Room

- Wash only full loads in your washing machine and use the load selector to match the load size.

Outside/Landscaping

- As a rule, water in 10-minute cycles.
- Turn-off automatic sprinklers when it rains; most automatic sprinkler systems have a rain delay mode or can be put in the "OFF" position without affecting the programming.
- Use drought-resistant trees and plants which can thrive with far less water than other species. For information on drought-resistant trees and plants, visit <http://www.modestogov.com/pwd/utilities/water/conservation/links.asp>, and then click on the Sunset Magazine for Gardens link.
- Put a layer of mulch around trees and plants; this slows evaporation of moisture and, as a bonus, discourages weed growth and soil erosion.



WATER METER INSTALLATION PROGRAM

In September 2004, **State Assembly Bill 2572** became law, requiring the installation of water meters on all water connections built before 1992, and mandating that all metered customers be billed based on the actual volume of water used. Volume-based billing for customers with meters installed at their residence must begin by 2010 and meters must be installed on all residences by 2025.

Most of Modesto was built prior to 1992; the year mandatory installation of water meters on new construction began. As a result, most of the city's residential water customers do not have water meters. In 2004, the City developed a plan to install water meters on all water connections; the work began in 2006, and by the year 2025, more than 76,000 water meters will be in operation.



The City is installing an Automated Meter Reading (A.M.R.) system which allows a meter reader to electronically gather data simply by driving past (usually within 300 feet) the meters on the route. This allows for a much faster collection of meter data. The system also detects leaks, so readings and billings are more accurate and service repairs are more efficient. **To date, the City of Modesto Water Division has installed more than 38,400 water meters and upgraded more than 33,400 meters with A.M.R technology.** Some regions of the water system, such as Grayson and Del Rio have been fully metered for a few years and are billed by their metered water consumption. Salida and some areas of Northwest Modesto have been metered since November 2008 and billing by consumption has begun in those metered areas as well.

Once a water meter is installed, the meter measures how much water is used. The meter is read once a month, and a bill is produced based on the difference between the current month's and the previous month's usage. Studies by the California Public Utilities Commission have shown that communities with metered water systems use 7-20 percent less water than non-metered areas. In addition, city services are more cost effective and operate more efficiently with an automated water metering system in place. **By metering water use and billing customers accordingly, we can begin working together to conserve water, which is our most precious natural resource.**



CITY of MODESTO

For more information on where meters have already been installed and the planned future installations, please visit www.modestogov.com/pwd/utilities/water/meters/installation_map.asp or call (209) 342-2246.