



Do It Yourself!

Household Water Assessment

How Water Wise Is Your Household?

Is your house as water efficient as it can be? This do-it-yourself household water use assessment will help you understand how much water you use and provide ways to reduce your usage. This assessment can show you ways to conserve water and save money at the same time!

In this assessment you will...

1. Gauge your household water efficiency based on a recent water bill.
2. Find potential toilet leaks.
3. Calculate how long you should water your landscape when using your irrigation system. Water outdoors only before 10 a.m. and after 5 p.m. Check SLVWD.com to see additional restrictions that are in place.
4. Learn how to save water inside and outside your home.

What you need:

1. A recent water bill to gauge your household water use.
2. Food dye or leak tablets to find potential toilet leaks.
3. At least four cylindrical containers (e.g. food cans) and a ruler to assess your irrigation system.



How Much Water Do You Use?

Use your water bill and a calculator to determine your water use per person in your household per day.

a. Water consumption or use from your water bill _____ gallons. (Your consumption is measured in units. 1 unit = 748 gallons)

b. _____ days in billing cycle

c. Household use = gallons (a.) ÷ days in billing cycle (b.) _____

d. _____ number of people living in your home

ANSWER: Divide household use (c.) by number of people living in your home (d.)

e. _____ This is your household water use per person per day.

Not sure what your water bill is telling you? Review “**Understanding Your Water Bill**” on page 3 to gain insight on your water usage over time.

How Efficient Is Your Water Use?

How does your water use measure up? Note that water use varies by season. Now that you have calculated your water use per person per day (e.), compare that number to the rest of the San Lorenzo Valley.

Gallons per Person per Day			
Winter	Summer	Rank	Comments
<50	<50	EFFICIENT	You are using water wisely! Share your techniques with your friends and neighbors.
51-60	51-70	AVERAGE	You use water like the average San Lorenzo Valley resident. Learn how to conserve water and reduce your water bill at watersavingtips.org
Exceeds 61	Exceeds 71	INEFFICIENT	You are using too much water. Find out how you can reduce water waste and significantly reduce your bill at watersavingtips.org

Note: Efficient water use assumes that outdoor watering is minimal.

Take the Water Conservation Pledge!

Now that you know how your water use compares to others, pledge to conserve more water! Go to <https://watersavingtips.org/act/take-the-pledge/> to let us know how you plan to save water

San Lorenzo Valley Water District provides high efficiency showerheads, aerators and hose nozzles free of charge to their customers. Contact us at (831) 338-2153 for more information.

Understanding Your Water Bill



SAN LORENZO VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
13060 HIGHWAY 9
BOULDER CREEK CA 95006-9119
PHONE: (831) 338-2153
Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Water usage is listed in units of hundred cubic feet (CCF). 100 cubic foot (1 unit) of water is equal to 748 gallons.

SPECIAL MESSAGE

This space is reserved for any billing messages. Please be sure to look for any important messages from the District.

ACCOUNT INFORMATION

CUSTOMER: JAMES DEAN
ACCOUNT NUMBER: 012345-000
METER NUMBER/SIZE: 98761234 (5/8")
SERVICE ADDRESS: 1234 SAN LORENZO AVE
ROUTE NUMBER: 81
SERVICE TYPE: WATER
BILLING PERIOD: 02/01/2018 to 02/28/2018
BILL DATE: 02/20/2018
DUE DATE: 03/13/2018

METER INFORMATION

READ PERIOD	PRIOR READ	CURRENT READ	USAGE
01/10/2018 TO 02/08/2018	37.00	42.00	5.00

BILLING INFORMATION

Tier	Units	Unit Cost	Amount
1 Water	5.00	10.12	50.60
Basic Charge			28.27
Current Charge	5.00		78.87
Previous Balance Due			88.99
Adjustments			0.00
PAST DUE Balance			88.99
Total Amount Due			167.86

USAGE INFORMATION

Your Water Consumption (1 Unit = 748 gallons)



*** PREVIOUS BALANCE DUE ***

This account has a previous balance of \$88.99. The Due Date listed is for the CURRENT CHARGES ONLY and DOES NOT EXTEND the Due Date of this previous balance. Payment in full for the previous balance must be received by 5:00pm on 03/13/2018 to avoid additional charges and possible termination of service!

Please write your account number on your check, detach the payment stub and return with your payment.



SAN LORENZO VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
13060 HIGHWAY 9
BOULDER CREEK CA 95006-9119

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 012345-000
SERVICE ADDRESS: 1234 SAN LORENZO AVE
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE: 167.86

AMOUNT ENCLOSED:

This chart illustrates the historic water usage over the last 12 months. It can help you track your water conservation efforts.



LOR0220A
400000003636/1



JAMES DEAN
1234 SAN LORENZO AVE
BEN LOMOND CA 95005-9508



MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:



SAN LORENZO VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
13060 HIGHWAY 9
BOULDER CREEK CA 95006-9119

How to Become More Water Efficient

Check for Silent Toilet Leaks

One of the fastest ways to save water is to find and fix leaks. Make sure to regularly check for leaks in and around your home. A dripping faucet or showerhead is pretty easy to spot, but a silent toilet leak isn't as easy to see, and it can waste up to 200 gallons a day! Checking your toilet for leaks is easy as 1, 2, 3...

1. Put a couple of drops of food coloring or dye tablets in the tank.
2. Wait 20 minutes. DO NOT FLUSH THE TOILET.
3. If the water in your toilet bowl changes color, you have a leak!

In many cases, toilet leaks are caused by faulty toilet flappers, which you can easily replace yourself. Consider contacting a plumber if that doesn't fix the problem. For more water conservation tips, visit [WaterSavingTips.org](http://www.WaterSavingTips.org). Visit http://www.slvwd.com/_Uhet.htm to find out if you are eligible for a toilet rebate.

Your Watering Rate

What Time of Day Should I Water?

In the San Lorenzo Valley, we prohibit watering between 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Watering outside this window of time takes advantage of relatively low winds and less loss of water to evaporation. Outdoor irrigation is permitted only 2 days a week.

How Long Should I Water?

Precise watering times vary depending on the type of watering device, soil, slope and plants. SLVWD recommends sprinkler systems to run 15 minutes per zone two times a week at max. Less frequent, deeper waterings are more effective for most plants than frequent, shallow waterings. Plant roots will grow stronger and healthier, and you will not need to water as often. Water infrequently and don't water during a rain event, just after a rain event, or when a rain event is predicted. Use a rain gauge or install rain sensors for large systems to help you determine the need to water. Keep in mind with clay soils, running an irrigation system on a lawn for more than five minutes will generally result in runoff.

How Often Should I Water?

SUMMER NO MORE THAN 2-3 TIMES PER WEEK	FALL NO MORE THAN 1-2 TIMES PER WEEK
SPRING NO MORE THAN 1-2 TIMES PER WEEK	WINTER USUALLY NOT NEEDED

Visit <https://green-gardener.org> for more information on watering, landscape design, water wise plant guides, and hiring a 'Green Gardener'.

Native plants require less water. Consider replacing non-natives with drought tolerant natives. Want to be a super water saver? Visit <http://www.santacruz.watersavingplants.com> for a comprehensive list of recommended water efficient plants and more watering tips.