

# Water Conservation Tips

The City and Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) are currently offering free water conservation devices to Martinez residents (high-efficiency shower heads, hose nozzles, kitchen and bath faucet aerators, etc.). Pick up free devices for your home at CCWD's District Center, 1331 Concord Avenue in Concord or City of Martinez City Hall.

Take advantage of CCWD's free [Single-Family](#), [Multi-family](#), or [Commercial](#) Water Use Evaluations offered to City of Martinez residents. These services will help identify potential leaks, water saving opportunities, and efficiency improvements for your building's interior and landscaped areas. Sign up at [www.ccwater.com/conserve](http://www.ccwater.com/conserve).

## Landscaping

- Convert your front lawn to a water-wise garden and get up to a **\$1,000 Rebate** from CCWD!
- Don't over-irrigate your landscape. Use CCWD's [Lawn and Landscape Watering Guide](#) for scheduling.
- Upgrade to a Smart Irrigation Controller that automatically adjusts watering based on the weather. CCWD offers [Smart Irrigation Controller rebates](#) of up to \$12 per active irrigation station!
- Perform a bi-annual walkthrough of your irrigation stations to find & fix leaks & adjust your sprinklers.
- Aerate lawn(s) and split up your runtimes into multiple cycles to irrigate efficiently and prevent water waste.
- Group plants together that have similar watering needs and irrigate them on the same station/valve.
- Get a [Mulch Coupon](#) and add 2-3 inches of mulch in garden areas with bare soil to save water.
- Plant drought-tolerant and low water use [plants](#).
- Pick up [free recycled water](#) from Central Contra Costa Sanitary District to hand-water lawns, gardens, and landscaping. Also, consider making [a rain garden or rainwater harvesting](#).

## Toilets

- Toilet leaks are one of the largest "silent" water wasters. Make sure to check all your toilets once a year for leaks using food dye or toilet leak detection dye tablets (provided free at City Hall or CCWD). When replacing a toilet flapper don't go generic, ensure you purchase the correct one for your toilet's manufacture and model.
- Verify if you have any other leaks on your property by [checking the low flow indicator](#) on your water meter.
- Replace toilets older than 1994 with WaterSense certified toilets which reduce water use by over 63%.

## Laundry

- Purchase an [Energy Star Most Qualified Clothes Washer](#) and save on water and energy.
- Adjust load cycle to match quantity of clothes if using a top-loading clothes washer.
- Wash only full loads with cold water to maximize water and energy efficiency.

## Showers

- Fix leaking valves & Install high efficiency 1.75 gallon per minute showerheads free from City Hall or CCWD.
- Take shorter showers. A 2.5 gallon per minute showerhead uses 25 gallons in just 10 minutes.

## Dishwashing

- Upgrade to a water-efficient dishwasher (check out [Energy Star's buying guide](#)). Running an Energy Star dishwasher uses only 4 gallons of water. This is equivalent to 2-3 minutes of handwashing.
- Don't leave water running when washing dishes in the sink

## Faucets

- Don't run water while shaving or brushing teeth.
- Fix leaking faucets. A drip going 24/7 can add up!
- Install low-flow aerators (included in free conservation kits at City Hall water window and [CCWD](#)).