



2018 Theme

Imagine a Day Without Water

Background Information and Messages

Most Americans take the water systems that bring clean water to and from their homes and businesses for granted. They turn on the tap and flush the toilet without thinking twice about where that water came from or where it will go. Some facts to think about:

- The average American uses 176 gallons of water per day—that's 64,240 gallons a year!
- 40 percent of water in America is used to produce the food we eat and the beverages we drink.
- How is water used in your home? In Solano County, 50 to 60 percent of a household's water use occurs outdoors. Inside your home, on average, 17 percent goes toward showering, 27 percent is used by the toilet, your faucet drains 15 percent, your clothes washer another 22 percent, miscellaneous needs take up 5 percent, and those pesky leaks steal another 14 percent.
- If drinking water and soda cost equally, your water bill would skyrocket more than 10,000 percent.

But could you imagine a day without water? A day without water means no water comes out of your tap to brush your teeth. When you flush the toilet, nothing happens. Firefighters have no water to put out fires; farmers couldn't water their crops; and doctors couldn't wash their hands.

Join us in imagining a day without water and highlighting all of the things we can be doing every day to use this precious resource wisely such as:

Indoors:

- Take a power shower by installing a WaterSense showerhead, taking shorter showers and turning off the water while washing your hair
- Turn off the water when rinsing dishes, soaping hands, brushing teeth or shaving
- Check plumbing and appliances for leaks and fix them within 48 hours
- Install a high-efficiency WaterSense-labeled toilet (1.28 gallons per flush)
- Check your toilet for leaks by putting dye tablets or food coloring in the tank. If color appears in the bowl without flushing, there's a leak that should be repaired.
- Install a high-efficiency clothes washing machine

Outdoors:

- Replace thirsty lawn with native, drought-tolerant plants and drip irrigation
- Place a layer of mulch around trees and plants to slow down evaporation.
- Adjust your sprinkler heads so that the water lands on the lawn or garden where it belongs: and not on the sidewalk or street. Water early in the morning or later at night to reduce evaporation
- Check your sprinkler timer monthly and adjust according to the weather
- Use a shut-off nozzle on your garden hose
- Use a broom rather than a hose to clean your sidewalk and driveway

More water-saving tips are available at solanosaveswater.org.

Sponsored by the Solano County Water Agency

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