



## add mulch to plant beds

Mulch helps reduce evaporation and weeds, builds healthy soil, and keeps plant roots cool in the summer and warm in the winter. Add mulch annually to keep a layer 2-4" deep near but not touching your plants and trees. You can find out where to get free mulch at [LessIsMore.org](http://LessIsMore.org).

### For more information:

[WaterWiseSB.org](http://WaterWiseSB.org) or call 805-568-3440

### Provided by:

Network of Santa Barbara County Water Providers



## use WaterWise plants

Whether you are putting in an all new landscape or slowly changing the current landscaping at your home, select water wise plants that are appropriate for our local climate. A searchable WaterWise Gardening catalog is available at [WaterWiseSB.org](http://WaterWiseSB.org) to help you find your new favorite plants.



# How to be WaterWise in Your Garden



**K**nowing how much and how often to water your garden can be a mystery. The average person uses twice the amount of water needed to keep plants healthy. However, simple adjustments can make a big difference.

Here are easy ways to save water outdoors:



### check your sprinkler system for leaks

Most sprinkler systems go on early in the morning when you are still sleeping. About once a month it's a good idea to turn your sprinklers on during the day and check for leaks, overspray, and broken sprinkler heads and emitters. This will alert you to many typical problems with irrigation systems.



### adjust sprinkler pressure

When your sprinklers are misting, it is a sign your water pressure is too high, causing water to be blown away by even just a gentle breeze. Install a pressure regulator to increase the efficiency of your sprinklers or switch to newer pressure compensating sprinkler nozzles.



### install a rain sensor

This inexpensive device is easy to wire to your irrigation controller and will automatically shut off your sprinklers when it is raining.



### change your sprinkler timer battery

If your irrigation controller's backup battery is dead, a power outage will cause it to reset to the default settings, watering about twice as much as necessary. Replace your battery as needed, at least once a year.



### adjust your sprinklers seasonally

Adjusting your sprinklers to water less during cooler or wet weather is one of the most effective way to reduce water waste. The Landscape Watering Calculator on WaterWiseSB.org can help you easily find out how many minutes of watering each of your irrigation zones need each month. Then use the Watering Index on the WaterWiseSB.org homepage to easily adjust your watering times based on recent weather.



### install a smart irrigation controller

Smart irrigation controllers automatically calculate a scientifically-based irrigation schedule using several factors, including your plant and soil type. These controllers then adjust the irrigation schedule as local weather changes. Whether it is for your home or your business, with smart irrigation controllers, you'll spend less time and money maintaining your landscape. For more information on smart irrigation controllers, go to [WaterWiseSB.org](http://WaterWiseSB.org).



### switch to rotating nozzles

If you have turf grass, replacing your conventional spray nozzles with rotating nozzles can reduce your water use by 20%. Rotating nozzles apply water more slowly and in larger drops, reducing runoff and misting. At just a few dollars each, rotating nozzles will quickly pay for themselves in water savings!

