



Water Conservation Tips



1. Replace your old toilets and save money with every flush

Recent advancements have allowed toilets to use 1.28 gallons per flush or less while still providing equal or superior performance. This is 20 percent less than the current federal standard of 1.6 gallons per flush. If purchasing a new toilet, consider buying one that is **WaterSense** labeled which has been certified to meet a rigorous criteria for both performance and efficiency.



2. Test your toilets for leaks at least once a year.

Toilet leaks can be silent! To test your toilet, put a dye tablet (or food coloring) in the tank. Wait 15 minutes, if color appears in the bowl then there is a leak.



3. Use a WaterSense® labeled showerhead.

They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month. Need a new showerhead? Check out the **Home Energy and Water Saving Toolkit** at the Burlingame Public Library for free showerhead and other no-cost water conservation devices.



4. Always wash a full load of dishes in your dishwasher.

Dishwashers typically use less water than washing by hand. If you're in the market for a new dishwasher, buy a certified Energy Star dishwasher to save even more water and energy.



5. When upgrading your clothes washing machine, choose an Energy Star model.

For a list of certified Energy Star products, visit www.energystar.gov. In the meantime, continue washing clothes in full loads and wash your dark clothes in cold water to help keep your clothes retain their color.



6. Reduce the amount of turf grass in your yard.

Convert your water-intensive turf lawn into a beautiful, California native garden. If you need help getting started, attend a free landscaping class near you by visiting www.bawsca.org/classes.



7. Convert your sprinkler system to a drip irrigation system.

Drip systems are very efficient since they deliver water straight to the roots. If you aren't able to install a drip system, consider replacing your sprinkler heads with micro-spray heads that use less water.



8. Install a rain barrel to store water for future use.

Don't let good water go to waste! The City offers a rebate of up to \$100 off a qualifying rain barrel. Visit www.bawsca.org/conserve/rebates/barrels for complete rules and application. If you're new to rain barrels, attend a free landscape workshop. Upcoming classes are posted at www.bawsca.org/classes.



9. Spread a layer of organic mulch on your plants.

Applying a minimum of 2 inches of mulch to your shrubs helps reduce the need for frequent irrigation, increases plant health, and discourages weed growth.

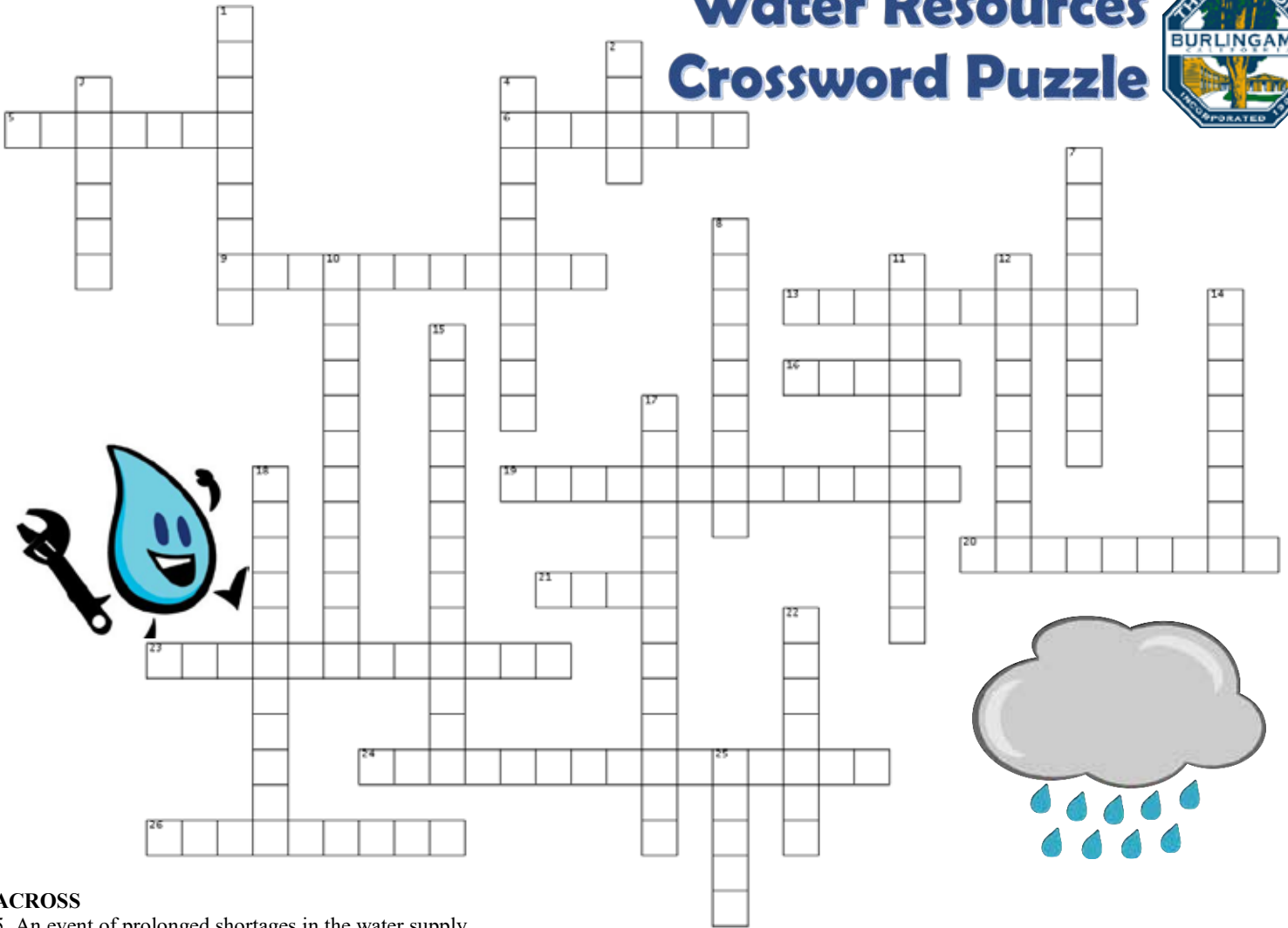


10. Monitor your water bill for unusually high water use.

Your water bill and water meter are tools that can help you discover leaks.



Water Resources Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

5. An event of prolonged shortages in the water supply.
6. This is a way of growing food without using poisonous chemicals called pesticides.
9. Part of the water cycle when heat makes the water turn into steam or an invisible gas.
13. This is a program sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that certifies water-efficient products.
16. Material (such as decaying leaves, bark, or compost) spread around or over a plant to enrich or insulate the soil.
19. Highly-treated wastewater that has undergone multiple levels of treatment to meet stringent quality and safety standards. It can conserve drinking water and be used for irrigation, industrial purposes, or dust control.
20. A land area where stormwater collects and drains into a common outlet, such as a river or bay.
21. A type of irrigation system that applies water directly to the roots of plants and minimizes evaporation.
23. Part of the water cycle when water collects in clouds after evaporating.
24. This body of water surrounds most of San Francisco.
26. The scientific study of the movement, distribution, and management of water on Earth and other planets.

DOWN

1. Most of planet Earth is covered by this type of water which is not drinkable by humans.
2. A way for fluid to escape a container or fluid-containing system. This is usually unintended and leads to a gradual loss of water.
3. Most household leaks come from this appliance.
4. This activity began in California in 1849 and caused a lot of dirt and mercury to end up in the San Francisco Bay.
7. The process of landscaping that reduces or eliminates the need for irrigation.
8. Untreated wastewater without contamination by bodily wastes. Includes wastewater from showers, tubs, and washing machines.
10. The name of the largest body of salt water.
11. This is the name of the reservoir that provides drinking water to millions of people in the San Francisco Bay Area.
12. A piece of land almost surrounded by water or projecting out into a body of water.
14. This is the name of the river where our drinking water comes from.
15. Part of the water cycle. Another name for rain or snow.
17. Fragments of tiny particles that have been found in the ocean, bottled water, human bodies, and air. Sources include artificial exfoliating beads, fleece or other synthetic clothing, car tires, and fishing gear.
18. Water present beneath Earth's surface in rock and soil pore spaces and in fractures of rock formations.
22. An adjective used to describe water that is safe to drink.
25. A stream that is usually smaller than a river and conveys stormwater from the hills to the bay. Mills, Easton, Sanchez, Terrace, Ralston, and Burlingame are local names of this.