



RAINFALL IS HERE: TURN OFF SPRINKLERS

Save Our Water Urges Californians to Let Mother Nature Do the Watering

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Sacramento, Calif. – With a major winter storm headed our way, [Save Our Water](#) is urging Californians to turn off their sprinklers and other outdoor irrigation before the rainfall hits. On average, Californians use 30-60% of their water on outdoor irrigation and letting Mother Nature handle watering during storms is an important way to save water.

Residents should keep their irrigation turned off for at least two days after it rains and, depending on the amount of rain, can keep their systems off for much longer. In fact, you don't need to begin watering again until the top two inches of soil are dry. An easy way to check if the soil is still moist is the screwdriver test – stick a screwdriver into a patch of soil, if it goes in all the way, there is enough water in the soil and sprinklers can stay off.

“California remains in a severe drought, so it is important to shut off sprinkler systems around the home as rainfall soaks our state,” said Ryan Bailey, Water Use Efficiency Branch Manager with the California Department of Water Resources. “Additional steps all residents can take include harvesting rainwater for outdoor watering, adjusting lawnmower blades to three inches to encourage deeper roots, and installing automatic shutoffs to save hundreds of gallons of water per year.”

Save Our Water's website is available with resources to help all Californians find ways to conserve. For more information on how residents can take action today to save water, visit SaveOurWater.com.

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Save Our Water is California's statewide water conservation program. Started in 2009 by the California Department of Water Resources, Save Our Water's goal is to make water conservation a daily habit among Californians. The program reaches millions of Californians each year through partnerships with local water agencies and other community-based organizations, social marketing efforts, paid and earned media and event sponsorships. Please visit SaveOurWater.com and follow @saveourwater on Twitter and @SaveOurWaterCA on Facebook.