

Apple Valley Is Doing Its Part to Conserve Water in a Big Way

Tony Penna, Vice President and General Manager, Apple Valley Ranchos

Water is a finite resource. Even though roughly 70 percent of the earth's surface is covered by water, less than 1 percent, according to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), is available for human use.

If you are like me, when I read these facts and scan the headlines about the epic drought facing our state, I start to worry a little. But I am quickly encouraged when I think about Apple Valley and our conservation story.

Apple Valley is doing its part in a big way and this past summer Apple Valley Ranchos households reduced water use by almost 10%. These water savings are enough to fill over 144 Olympic-sized pools.

As an Apple Valley resident and customer of Apple Valley Ranchos, I know this required a lifestyle change. As a result of the ongoing drought, the state mandated this summer that Apple Valley Ranchos implement new outdoor water restrictions in addition to our current conservation efforts. These new watering restrictions include:

1. Watering outdoor landscapes in a way that causes "runoff" onto the adjacent property, non-irrigated areas, private and public walkways, roadways, parking lots, or structures.
2. Washing a vehicle, with a hose without a shut-off nozzle or device that will immediately stop the flow of water when not in use.
3. Using drinking water to wash driveways and sidewalks.
4. Using drinking water in a fountain or other decorative water feature, except where the water is recirculated.

So far Apple Valley residents and businesses are complying with these new water restrictions and when we have received notifications of violators, we have been able to assist them in complying. To help residents conserve water, Apple Valley Ranchos provides water-saving programs like the Ultra High-Efficiency Toilet Replacement Program, the Conservation Irrigation Nozzle Program and the Cash for Grass program (replace your grass with desert adaptive plants).

If you would like to learn more about these and other conservation programs, just call our water conservation representative Norma Armenta at (760) 240-8329 or email her at narmenta@avrwater.com.

Apple Valley Ranchos also offers at no-cost, water conservation tools including indoor conservation kits, shutoff hose nozzles and shower timers. We also have a list of easy to use conservation tips, such as - only run full loads in the dishwasher and washing machine, install low-flow showerheads, limit showers to five minutes or less and when replacing appliances, install low flow toilets and high efficiency washing machines. Please visit our Conservation page online at www.avrwater.com.

The USEPA estimates up to ten percent of American homes have water leaks that drip away 90 gallons a day or more. Water lost by these leaky residences could be reduced if new, efficient fixtures were installed. We at Apple Valley Ranchos encourage you to fix broken or defective plumbing, sprinklers, watering or irrigation systems. If you think you may have a water leak, we can help. Just call 760.247.6484 and request a water audit.

Thank you Apple Valley for all you are doing to conserve water!

[Conservation Tips](#)

[California Urban Water Conservation Council](#)

[California Department of Water Resources](#)

[Metropolitan Water District of Southern California](#)

[Alliance for Water Awareness and Conservation](#)

[Green Media Creation](#)

[Mojave Water Agency](#) - Mojave Water Agency has a section dedicated to conserving water in the High Desert.

[California Water Awareness Campaign](#)

[Water Conservation Resources - Save Every Drop](#)

[California Urban Water Conservation Council](#) - The California Urban Water Conservation Council was created to increase efficient water use state wide through partnerships among Urban Water agencies, public interest organizations, and private entities.

[Water Wiser](#) - American Water Works Association site for resources on water efficiency.