



WHAT IS REQUIRED FOR WATER CONSERVATION?

INTRODUCTION

Water is a precious and limited resource, especially in drought-prone Santa Barbara. As a result, water efficiency is a significant part of the City's water supply planning and are an important priority for the City. There are many cost-effective ways to save water, including high efficiency plumbing fixtures, water wise landscaping, and efficient irrigation systems. The City's adopted [Landscape Design Standards for Water Conservation](#) includes mandatory measures for all required landscape plans.

WATER-WISE LANDSCAPING

Limit Your Lawn

1

Turf grass is prohibited on all commercial projects, and in parkways, narrow areas, and sloped areas. Residential projects should only use turf grass when it serves a purpose, such as play or entertainment areas. Consider replacing existing turf grass areas with permeable hardscape or native plants, adding interest and color to your yard.

Plant Water-Wise

2

Select plants with low-water or very-low-water requirements and those that are appropriate to our Mediterranean climate. See the [WUCOLS](#) database for a list of appropriate plants. Residents are encouraged to use California native plants, which generally have lower water requirements than other plants.

Mulch, Mulch, Mulch

3

A 3 to 4-inch layer of mulch will reduce water evaporation, protect roots from heat, reduce competitive weeds, and help build healthy soil. A good mulch layer can reduce irrigation need by about 50%. Make sure it is reapplied when it gets sparse, generally every year.

Irrigate Efficiently

4

Efficient irrigation methods can help keep plants healthy during dry periods while also limiting water use. Install a drip system. Replace sprinkler heads with low-flow options. Avoid sprinkler overspray. Group plants according to water needs. Install a smart irrigation controller with a rain shut-off sensor and use [Watering % Adjust](#) to adjust your irrigation schedule.

Minimize Steep Slopes

5

Slopes can be challenging because of the potential for erosion and runoff. Sloped landscape area should encourage water retention and infiltration with swales and depressions. If slopes cannot be avoided in your landscape design, install plantings with deeper root zones such as native ground covers and shrubs to provide stabilization and prevent erosion.

CREDIT: University of California Master Gardeners Program, and United States EPA Water Sense website.



LANDSCAPE COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST

The person who prepared the landscape plan must sign this checklist and include it on the landscape plans. Check each box to verify compliance and add sheet references or indicate N/A if “not applicable”.

1) Limit Your Lawn

Sheet # _____

- Commercial projects have no lawn or turf grass areas _____
- No turf grass is in parkways, medians, or other areas with any dimension of less than 8 feet _____
- No turf grass is located on slopes of 20% or greater _____

2) Plant Water-Wise

Sheet # _____

- Commercial projects are designed with 100% water-wise plants _____
- Residential, mixed-use, and institutional are designed with minimum 80% water-wise plants _____
- Plant list includes botanical name, common name, and WUCOLS designation _____
- Plans show total square feet and percent of water-wise, medium, high-water-using landscaping _____

3) Mulch, Mulch, Mulch

Sheet # _____

- All appropriate landscaped areas will be covered with at least 3 inches of mulch _____

4) Irrigate Efficiently

Sheet # _____

- Drip irrigation, using emitters with < 2 GPH, is provided on at least 25% of the landscaped area _____
- Valves are separated for hydrozones based on plant water needs and sun/shade requirements _____
- A weather-based irrigation controller with a rain shutoff sensor is provided _____
- Areas less than 8 feet are irrigated with bubblers, pop-up rotating nozzle, sub-surface, or drip _____
- Irrigation systems are designed to avoid overspray and runoff _____
- Sprinklers have matched precipitation rates within each valve and circuit. _____
- Sprinklers have uniform distribution, head-to-head spacing, and setbacks from paved areas. _____
- Check valves are provided at the low end of irrigation lines to prevent unwanted draining. _____
- Pressure regulators are provided for mainline, if necessary; inline regulators at each valve. _____

5) Minimize Steep Slopes

Sheet # _____

- Slope allows for water retention, creates swales, mimics natural flow, and maintains flow width. _____

I certify that the foregoing is true and correct and that verification will be necessary upon final inspection.

Signature

Name

License # and Exp. Date