



Conserving water by composting

**3 inches
of compost**

=

**30% reduction*
in water demands**

Using compost in landscaping and agriculture improves the efficiency of water use by

- 💧 **reducing evaporation**
- 💧 **improving water infiltration and storage**
- 💧 **retaining moisture longer**

Benefits of composting

- Sequesters carbon from the atmosphere
- Keeps organics out of landfills
- Reduces greenhouse gases in the air
- Conserves natural, renewable resources

Save water *inside*

Save water *outside*

Turn off water when brushing teeth

Utilize compost

Wash dishes and laundry only on a full load

Install drip irrigation

Install water-saving showerheads, low-flush toilets, and water-saving faucets

Water lawn and plants 1 or 2 days a week and at night

Reduce shower time

Install drought tolerant landscaping

Fix water leaks immediately

Build swales for capturing rainwater

References

- 💧 Cal Recycle and ACP*
- 💧 Abu-Awwad, A.M. (1998). *Effect of mulch and irrigation water amounts on soil evaporation and transportation*. J. Argon. Crop Sci. 1881:55-59.1.
- 💧 US EPA (1997). *Innovative uses of compost*. Erosion Control, Turf Remediation, and Landscaping.

- 💧 Department of Environment and Conservation (2003). *Life Cycle inventory and life cycle assessment of windrow composting systems*. Report created by Recycled organics Unit, The University of New South Wales, Sydney.
- 💧 US Composting Council (1996). *Benefits of Compost. The Field Guide to Compost Use*.