



## 2025 Water Conservation Tip of the Month

MONTH	TIP OF THE MONTH
January	Cheers to the new year, and cheers to saving water! Every drop counts, whether you're at home or work. Explore your City's Water Conservation webpage ( <a href="#">Buellton</a> or <a href="#">Solvang</a> ) or the County of Santa Barbara's <a href="#">Water Wise</a> website for practical tips to reduce water waste and implement efficient water-use strategies.
February	Love is in the air... and in your garden! Did you know Buellton and Solvang have a Landscaper's Guide to Best Management Practices in English and Spanish? Whether you're sprucing up your yard or working with a landscaper, this guide provides valuable tips for managing irrigation to reduce runoff and adopting water-efficient landscaping practices. Visit your City's Stormwater Management webpage ( <a href="#">Buellton</a> or <a href="#">Solvang</a> ) or to download a copy and use these practices in your landscaping projects—whether you're doing the work yourself or partnering with a professional.
March	Spring is blooming, and so can your garden! Check out the <a href="#">Water Wise</a> website for a treasure trove of drought-tolerant, climate-friendly plants that'll thrive in Santa Barbara County. These sustainable plants will beautify your garden while reducing your water bill.
April	Spring cleaning? Skip the hose and grab a broom instead! Sweep sidewalks, driveways, patios, and other surfaces to remove leaves and debris without wasting water. Dry-cleaning methods also help prevent yard waste from clogging storm drains or polluting waterways. Find more water-saving tips on the County of Santa Barbara's <a href="#">Water Wise</a> website.
May	Did you know that Santa Barbara County educates local gardeners in water efficiency practices? Visit the <a href="#">Buellton Community Garden</a> webpage, your City's Water Conservation webpage ( <a href="#">Buellton</a> or <a href="#">Solvang</a> ) or the County of Santa Barbara's <a href="#">Water Wise</a> website to learn more about the Green Gardener Program. Be sure to also follow the <a href="#">Master Gardener Program</a> of Santa Barbara County for more resources.
June	Keep your garden cool this summer! An easy way to reduce your yard's irrigation needs is to add a thick layer of mulch (at least 3 inches) to your garden. Mulch helps retain moisture in the soil AND suppresses the weeds. Visit the <a href="#">Less is More</a> website to find a FREE mulch pile in Santa Ynez Valley.
July	Outdoor Watering Tips for Summer: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Step on your grass—if it springs back, it doesn't need water.</li> <li>2. Keep grass longer to retain moisture and reduce watering needs.</li> <li>3. Embrace natural growth—lawns don't need to stay green year-round.</li> </ol> For more watering tips, visit the EPA's <a href="#">WaterSense</a> website.
August	Leaks are sneaky little water wasters! Take a quick peek at your sinks, toilets, and outdoor faucets. Got a drip? Fix it quick! Not sure how? The County of Santa Barbara's <a href="#">Water Wise</a> website has handy videos to guide you step by step.
September	Car wash day? Use a commercial car wash that recycles water to save on water use. If washing your car at home, use a hose with an automatic shut-off nozzle and ensure wastewater drains to a landscaped area or unpaved surface. Better yet, wash your car on a grassy area to water your lawn at the same time!
October	True or false: handwashing dishes uses less water than a fully loaded dishwasher? In most cases, using the dishwasher conserves more water than washing dishes by hand. Visit your City's Water Conservation webpage ( <a href="#">Buellton</a> or <a href="#">Solvang</a> ) or the County of Santa Barbara's <a href="#">Water Wise</a> website to learn more about water conservation measures you can implement at your home or business.
November	Direct rainwater runoff from rooftops and paved surfaces to landscaped areas to reduce irrigation needs. Consider installing rain barrels to collect and reuse rainwater. For more ideas, visit your City's Water Conservation webpage ( <a href="#">Buellton</a> or <a href="#">Solvang</a> ) or the County of Santa Barbara's <a href="#">Water Wise</a> website.
December	Turn off sprinklers during the rainy season to let nature handle the irrigation. Keep your irrigation system off from one storm to the next and enjoy the water savings that come with winter rains.