



## WATER & ENERGY HOME SURVEY

### YOUR RESULTS

Name: MWD

School Level: College

City, State ZIP: Los Angeles, California 90012



Questions answered: 45

Items indicating you are already conserving: 3

Items for which you have received recommendations: 42

1. [PRINT RECOMMENDATIONS](#)

2. Share the recommendations with your family.
3. Work with your family to make improvements in conserving water and energy.



## Part 1: Saving Water

### 1: Faucets

Do family members leave the water running while washing hands, brushing teeth, shaving, doing dishes, or cleaning fruits and vegetables?

You entered: a. yes, some leave the water running

#### RECOMMENDATIONS to help you conserve:

*Turn the water off while brushing your teeth or soaping up your hands or face, and then turn it back on to rinse. For shaving, put a little water in the basin. And wash dishes and vegetables in a sink of water rather than under a running faucet. Remember, about a gallon of water a minute flows out of a running faucet...and down the drain.*

### 2: Showers

Do family members spend more than about 10 minutes in the shower?

You entered: a. yes, some take long showers

#### RECOMMENDATIONS to help you conserve:

*Take shorter showers. You can also turn the water off while soaping up or shampooing, and then turn it back on to rinse. Regular showers use about 4 gallons of water per minute. That's more than 40 gallons if you stand in there for more than 10 minutes.*

### 3: Showerheads

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What is your showerhead's water output?

You entered: c. more than 5 gallons per minute

#### RECOMMENDATIONS to help you conserve:

*Install a low-flow showerhead.* If your showerhead puts out more than 2 ½ gallons per minute, it is either an old one or the aerator has been removed. Today, all showerheads are low-flow models, which can use up to 75% less water than old models. A new showerhead will cost only \$10 to \$20 and will quickly pay for itself in lower water and energy costs.

### 4: Toilet Trash

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Is trash (e.g., tissues, hair, paper scraps, dental floss, etc.) sometimes flushed down toilets?

You entered: a. yes

#### RECOMMENDATIONS to help you conserve:

*Use the wastebasket.* Don't flush trash down the toilet. Toilets account for the most use of water inside the home, so every flush counts. Besides, you may end up with fewer stopped-up toilets!

### 5: Toilet Type

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What type of toilet(s) do you have at home?

You entered: a. regular

#### RECOMMENDATIONS to help you conserve:

*Consider replacing your toilet.* Typical toilets installed prior to 1992 use between 3.5 and 7 gallons per flush. If your toilet is that old, you can save thousands of gallons of water every year by installing a new toilet. Today's new toilets perform better with less water per flush because of improvements such as pressure-assisted flushing and the new dual-flush concept, which uses the appropriate amount of water for the amount of waste. These technologies can cut water use to 1.28 gallons or less per flush, and they are more durable and reliable than traditional models.

### 6: Dishwasher and Clothes Washer

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Are the dishwasher and/or clothes washer used only when full?

You entered: b. no

#### RECOMMENDATIONS to help you conserve:

*Wash full loads of dishes and clothes.* The dishwasher uses the same amount of water whether empty or full. If washing small loads in the clothes washer, be sure to set the machine for low water levels.

## 7: Age of Appliances

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Is the dishwasher or clothes washer more than 10 years old?

You entered: a. yes

### RECOMMENDATIONS to help you conserve:

*Replace dishwashers and clothes washers that are more than 10 years old. Energy Star-rated clothes washers and dishwashers use significantly less water—35-50% less—than older models. And front-loading clothes washers use 50% less energy (less water to heat), last 5 to 10 years longer, and will save money in reduced water and heating bills. Check the websites of your local water and energy companies for rebates on new water-saving washers.*

## 8: Watering Time

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When does the lawn or garden usually get watered?

You entered: b. mid-day or evening

### RECOMMENDATIONS to help you conserve:

*Water in the morning or late at night when temperatures are cooler and the air is still. Avoid peak water- and energy-use hours of noon to 8 p.m. Also, water only when necessary. Check by stepping on the grass; if it springs back, it doesn't need water. Use the Watering Calculator and Watering Index at [www.bewaterwise.com](http://www.bewaterwise.com) to adjust watering to plant needs.*

## 9: Seasonal Watering

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Is the time spent watering the lawn changed depending on the season (that is, fewer minutes in the fall and winter, more in spring and summer)?

You entered: b. no

### RECOMMENDATIONS to help you conserve:

*Adjust watering schedules with weather and seasons. Water less during cool months, and sometimes don't water at all in winter. No matter what the season, water only when necessary. Check by stepping on the grass; if it springs back, it doesn't need water. Use the Watering Calculator and Watering Index at [www.bewaterwise.com](http://www.bewaterwise.com) to adjust watering to plant needs. Consider installing a smart sprinkler controller that automatically adjusts irrigation schedules in response to changing weather conditions, determining when and how much to water.*

## 10: Sprinklers

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If you use automatic sprinklers, what type are they?

You entered: a. conventional fan spray

### RECOMMENDATIONS to help you conserve:

*Replace old sprinkler nozzles with precision rotating sprinkler nozzles. These nozzles shoot multi-trajectory, rotating streams that apply water more slowly and uniformly than conventional heads, using about 20% less water. In addition, water jetting from these nozzles is more resistant to wind and reduces runoff. In many cases, you can update your existing sprinkler heads with new rotary nozzles without having to change out the entire sprinkler body. Depending on where you live, you may be eligible for a rebate from your local water agency on a portion of the cost.*

## 11: Overspray

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If sprinklers are used—either attached to the hose or built in—does a lot of pavement get wet from overspray?

You entered: a. yes

### RECOMMENDATIONS to help you conserve:

*Adjust your sprinklers* if they direct water onto the pavement instead of onto the lawn or garden. Replace or repair broken sprinkler heads. Consider replacing your system with a more efficient one, especially one that includes drip irrigation.

## 12: Runoff

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How much water runs off the lawn onto paved areas or into gutters when the lawn is watered?

You entered: b. quite a lot

### RECOMMENDATIONS to help you conserve:

*Investigate why runoff is occurring and then fix the problem.* For example, if water is running off the lawn, this may mean that the soil is not absorbing the water or that the sprinklers are staying on too long. You might need to: (1) Reduce the time the lawn is watered, or (2) water more frequently for shorter periods, especially if the lawn is sloped or if the soil contains clay, or (3) aerate the lawn (poke holes into it) if the soil is very hard and compacted. Also, consider replacing concrete with permeable paving gravel, which will allow the water to soak into the ground. Water that runs into the street and down storm drains goes directly to the ocean, along with any pollutants—pesticides, fertilizers, trash, oil, etc.—in that water.

## 13: Landscape

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What makes up most of your yard?

You entered: a. mostly turf grass (lawn)

### RECOMMENDATIONS to help you conserve:

*Keep turf grass (lawn) to a minimum.* Grass is the thirstiest of plants, so less grass means less water demand—as well as less mowing and green waste. Consider woodchip or gravel groundcover, rock gardens, mulched flowerbeds, California Friendly® plants, and synthetic turf. At [www.bewaterwise.com](http://www.bewaterwise.com), in the Garden Spot, you can watch videos on how to create a California Friendly® landscape, take online gardening classes, find out about landscape training classes, and a lot more.

## 14: Plants

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Are the plants in your yard mostly California Friendly®?

You entered: b. no

### RECOMMENDATIONS to help you conserve:

*Use California Friendly® plants in your landscape.* These plants thrive in our mild winters and warm dry summers. Not only are they less thirsty, they also use less fertilizer and require less care than most other plants. At [www.bewaterwise.com](http://www.bewaterwise.com) in The Garden Spot, you'll find a complete list of California Friendly® plants.

## 15: Mulch

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Do the trees and/or plants in your yard have mulch around them?

You entered: b. no

### RECOMMENDATIONS to help you conserve:

*Use mulch around trees and plants. A 2- to 4-inch layer of mulch—such as woodchips, sawdust, grass clippings—can save 20-30 gallons of water per day. Mulch retains moisture and prevents soil from crusting, allowing better water penetration.*

## 16: Clean-ups

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How often is the hose used to clean driveways, patios, sidewalks, or other pavement areas?

You entered: b. often or sometimes

### RECOMMENDATIONS to help you conserve:

*Use a broom to sweep away dirt, leaves, and grass from pavement areas. A hose puts out about 10 gallons of water a minute. And avoid those gas-powered, air-polluting, noisy leaf blowers!*

## 17: Car Washing

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Is the hose turned off while the car is being soaped before it is rinsed?

You entered: b. no

### RECOMMENDATIONS to help you conserve:

*Use a hose-end nozzle that lets you shut the water off when you don't need it while washing the car. Or, use a bucket of water to wash the car, turning the hose on only to rinse. If you take your car to a professional carwash, find one that recycles water.*

## 18: Pool or Spa

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Is the swimming pool and/or hot tub covered at night and during cool weather?

You entered: b. no

### RECOMMENDATIONS to help you conserve:

*Use a pool cover. Buy an insulated cover and keep the pool or spa covered whenever it is not being used. Even foam pool floats will work! An uncovered pool loses from 900 to 3,000 gallons of water a month, depending on size, weather, and water temperature. A cover can save up to 90 percent in reduced water and energy (heating) costs.*

## 19: Water Leaks

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Do any of your faucets, pipes, or toilets leak?

You entered: a. yes

### RECOMMENDATIONS to help you conserve:

*Fix the water leak.* A dripping faucet may need a new washer. A leaking toilet may need a new flapper. A leaky pipe may need some plumber's tape. If the problem is not that simple, call a plumber. Even a slow leak of only two tablespoons a minute wastes 15 gallons a day, which is more than 5,000 gallons a year!

## 20: Hazardous Wastes

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How does your family usually dispose of hazardous waste products?

You entered: b. put in the regular trash can or pour into gutter storm drains or down house drains

### RECOMMENDATIONS to help you conserve:

*Take your hazardous wastes (old paint, used oil, cleaners and solvents, batteries, antifreeze, ink cartridges, poisons, medicines, etc.) to special collection sites.* Do not pour them down storm drains (which lead directly to the ocean) or pour them into household drains (where they can contaminate rivers, groundwater, and drinking water) or put them in the trash (where they can contaminate landfills). To find out about collection sites and dates in the greater Los Angeles area, go to [www.lacsd.org](http://www.lacsd.org). Under "Information Center," click on "HHH/E Waste." To learn more about hazardous wastes generally, go to [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov). Under "Quick Finder," click on "Wastes," then "Residential," then "Household Hazardous Wastes."

# Part 2: Conserving Energy

## 21: Heating Temperature

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At what temperature is your thermostat usually set in winter?

You entered: b. 69 degrees or higher

### RECOMMENDATIONS to help you conserve:

*Turn down the thermostat.* Keep the thermostat at 68 degrees or lower when family members are home during the day, and remember to turn it off or lower when you're not home. If you feel a little cool, wear a sweatshirt or sweater instead of turning up the heat. Heating is the biggest use of energy in the home. You can save about 2% on your heating costs for every degree you turn your thermostat down, and you'll be emitting fewer hydrocarbons into the air.

## 22: Nighttime Temperature

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Is the heat turned down or off at night when people go to bed?

You entered: b. no

### RECOMMENDATIONS to help you conserve:

*Turn the thermostat to 60 degrees or lower at night. Consider installing a programmable thermostat that can automatically change settings at the times you select. Check the website of your local gas or electric company for special offers and rebates on programmable thermostats.*

## 23: Heater Vents

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Are heater vents closed in unused rooms?

You entered: b. no

### RECOMMENDATIONS to help you conserve:

*Close the heater vents in unused rooms and keep the door closed. Why heat an empty room? It costs money and it adds to air pollution.*

## 24: Furnace Filter

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Is the furnace filter changed or cleaned every month or two in winter?

You entered: b. no

### RECOMMENDATIONS to help you conserve:

*Change or clean your furnace filter every month or two during the heating season. A clean filter maximizes your furnace's efficiency and longevity—and minimizes your energy bills.*

## 25: Cooling Temperature

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At what temperature is your thermostat usually set for air conditioning?

You entered: a. 78 degrees or higher

**Congratulations, you are conserving! Keep up the good work!**

## 26: Heater/Air Conditioner Tune-up

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How often do you tune-up your heating/air conditioning system?

You entered: c. every 5 or more years

### RECOMMENDATIONS to help you conserve:

*Call your energy company for tune-up programs.* A technician can test, clean, and adjust your system so that it is working efficiently and directing the warm or cool air where it is supposed to go. Tuning up your system once a year can save your family up to 5% on energy bills and will help keep your home safe from faulty heater/air conditioner operation.

## 27: Insulation

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How much insulation is in the ceiling or attic of your home?

You entered: a. 0 to 3 inches

### RECOMMENDATIONS to help you conserve:

*Add insulation* in the ceiling and, if possible, the outside walls to slow or stop heat transfer between the inside of your home and the outdoors in both summer and winter. There should be at least 6 or 7 inches of insulation material in your attic. Check the websites of your local gas or electric company for special programs to help with the cost of insulating your home. Proper insulation can reduce heating and cooling costs up to 25%. And replacing your old single-pane glass windows with Energy-Star-rated, double-pane, gas-filled new ones provides insulation that can reduce costs by another 15%!

## 28: Windows and Doors

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Are windows and outside doors kept closed when the heater or air conditioner is on?

You entered: b. no, not all of the time

### RECOMMENDATIONS to help you conserve:

*Keep windows and doors closed* when you have either the heater or air conditioner on. Nearly half of all the energy used in our homes escapes through windows and doors.

## 29: Drafts

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Does air leak in or out of windows or doors even when they are closed?

You entered: a. yes

### RECOMMENDATIONS to help you conserve:

*Weather strip and caulk.* Put weather stripping around leaky window frames and outside doors. Use caulking to seal any cracks, holes, or openings around electric, plumbing, and lighting fixtures as well as other places where your draftometer test found leaks. All of these leaks could add up to as much air loss as an open window! And that means higher heating and cooling costs.



### 30: Shade

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Are your windows shaded during hot weather either by trees or blinds or other window coverings?

You entered: b. no

#### RECOMMENDATIONS to help you conserve:

*During hot weather, shade or cover sunny windows, which can significantly lower the temperature inside a house and save on air conditioning costs. You can shade windows on the outside by planting trees or installing awnings or shades. Inside, you can keep blinds or curtains closed over sunny windows.*

### 31: Roof Vents

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Are your attic roof vents open—not covered—all year long?

You entered: b. no

#### RECOMMENDATIONS to help you conserve:

*Leave attic roof vents open all year long. Temperature and moisture control are the major reasons for providing attic ventilation. During the summer, excess heat that builds up in the attic can escape through the vents, resulting in lower costs for cooling. Also, moisture produced within the home all year long moves into the attic; if this moisture is not exhausted from the attic, it can condense and cause insulation and construction materials to deteriorate.*

### 32: Water Heater Temperature

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Is your water heater temperature set at 130 degrees or lower or at the conservation, medium, or low settings?

You entered: b. no

#### RECOMMENDATIONS to help you conserve:

*Turn down the temperature to 130 degrees or less, or set it at the “conservation” or “medium” setting. The water heater is the second largest energy user in the home. Consider wrapping insulation around the water heater (especially an old one) and around the water pipes leading from the heater and under the house.*

### 33: Wash Temperature

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What temperature is used for most loads of laundry?

You entered: a. hot

#### RECOMMENDATIONS to help you conserve:

*Whenever possible, set your clothes washer to use warm or cold water rather than hot. Heating water is the second largest energy user in the home. Clothes will usually get just as clean in warm or cold water.*

### 34: Light Bulbs

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Do most of the light fixtures or lamps in your home contain fluorescent light tubes or compact fluorescent light bulbs?

You entered: b. no

#### RECOMMENDATIONS to help you conserve:

*Use compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) where possible. CFLs last about 10 times longer than incandescent bulbs and use about 1/4 the energy. These bulbs cost more than incandescent bulbs, but they more than pay for themselves in energy savings. The screw-in CFLs are most efficient when they operate for two or more hours at a time. So put them in fixtures that are turned on the most. Many energy companies offer CFLs to their customers.*

### 35: Outdoor Lights

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What kinds of light bulbs are used for outdoor lighting?

You entered: a. incandescent

#### RECOMMENDATIONS to help you conserve:

*Use compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) or high-pressure sodium (HPS) lamps where possible. Both CFLs and HPS lamps are much more efficient and last much longer than incandescent bulbs. CFLs typically use 75% less energy and provide equivalent light. HPS lamps produce a large quantity of light from a relatively small bulb; thus, they are usually used where high levels of light are required over large areas. Replacing just one exterior incandescent light with a HPS lamp can save you up to \$40 a year.*

### 36: Lights and Appliances

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Are lights, televisions, stereos, and other electric appliances turned off when they're not being used?

You entered: a. yes, most of the time

Congratulations, you are conserving! Keep up the good work!

### 37: Cooking

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Is a microwave or toaster oven, rather than the large oven in the stove, used to heat small meals or snacks?

You entered: b. no

#### RECOMMENDATIONS to help you conserve:

*Use a microwave or small electric oven to heat or cook small amounts of food. They use only one-third to one-half as much energy as conventional ovens.*

### 38: Refrigerator Coils

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Are your refrigerator coils clean or dirty? (Coils are usually located at the back of the refrigerator.)

You entered: b. dirty or dusty

#### RECOMMENDATIONS to help you conserve:

*Clean refrigerator coils regularly.* Coils remove heat from the inside of the refrigerator. If they are dirty, they won't work efficiently, and the refrigerator will have to stay on longer.

### 39: Ages of Major Appliances

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Are any of your major appliances (such as furnace, air conditioner, water heater, refrigerator) more than 15 years old?

You entered: a. yes

#### RECOMMENDATIONS to help you conserve:

*Replace older furnaces, air conditioners, refrigerators, and water heaters with low-energy-use appliances when you can.* You'll use less energy and save money. When shopping, read the Energy Guide labels, and look for Energy Star-rated appliances ([www.EnergyStar.gov/products](http://www.EnergyStar.gov/products)). Check with your electric and/or gas utility for special programs and rebates. Many utilities, for example, will provide cash rebates on Energy Star-rated appliances. Some will even pick up your old refrigerator and give you cash for it. To see what programs are available in your area, go to [www.fypower.org](http://www.fypower.org) and click on "Find Rebates and Services in Your ZIP Code."

### 40: Pool Filter

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When is your pool or spa filter run?

You entered: a. during the day

#### RECOMMENDATIONS to help you conserve:

*Run your pool filter in the late evening or at night.* During peak energy-use hours before 7 p.m., especially during hot weather, there is much demand for electricity. You can help make sure everyone has the energy they need and help prevent brownouts by running your pool filter at night. And if you can reduce the number of hours the filter is run, you'll save energy and money.

### 41: Carpooling

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Do you carpool to school or work on most days?

You entered: b. no, my parent or someone else usually drives just me

#### RECOMMENDATIONS to help you conserve:

*Consider carpooling.* Carpooling may be a little inconvenient at times, but it saves gasoline and also helps cut down on traffic and harmful air emissions around the school. Ask the principal if your school or PTA provides help in putting parents together to form carpools.

## 42: Parental Taxi

Do you usually ask your parents or someone else to drive you places, even when you could walk or bike or skateboard?

You entered: b. no

Congratulations, you are conserving! Keep up the good work!

## 43: Shopping

Do family members sometimes shop from home via the Internet or catalogs, rather than drive to stores?

You entered: b. no

### RECOMMENDATIONS to help you conserve:

*Shop at home via the Internet or catalogs sometimes, particularly during smoggy periods. This will reduce car trips, which will save gasoline.*

## 44: Trip Links

Are several errands combined into one car trip rather than separate trips for each errand?

You entered: b. no

### RECOMMENDATIONS to help you conserve:

*Run several errands during one car trip, rather than make separate car trips for each errand. For more tips on how to save gasoline when driving, go to [www.fypower.org](http://www.fypower.org) and click on "Conserve Gas - Save Money."*

## 45: Recycling

Are your family's old newspapers, metal cans, plastic and glass bottles, cardboard boxes, phone books, etc. recycled instead of buried in a landfill?

You entered: b. no, most waste goes into regular trash cans and is not recycled

### RECOMMENDATIONS to help you conserve:

*Recycle your newspapers, metal cans, and plastic and glass bottles rather than put them in the trash. It takes less energy to make products from recycled materials than from raw natural resources. If your trash hauler doesn't recycle, you can save your recyclables and take them to a recycling center. Every community has one. To locate a center in Los Angeles County, go to [www.lacsd.org](http://www.lacsd.org). Under "Information Center," go to "Solid Waste Information" and click on "Recycling Centers." For more information on recycling, go to [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov) and under "Quick Finder," click on "Recycling."*

PRINT RECOMMENDATIONS