

Save Water & Save Money!

Your Amador Water Agency water bill can help you track your water use and save money when you conserve.

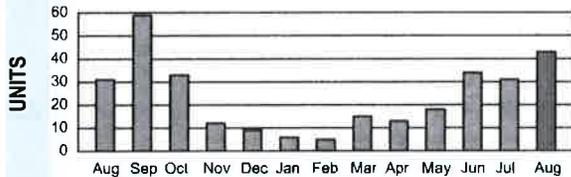
How to use your water bill to save money:

Look for the following chart in the ACCOUNT SUMMARY box on your utility bill:

| Previous Read | Current Read | Units Use | Units Use (Last Year) |
|---------------|--------------|-----------|-----------------------|
| 274 | 317 | 43 | 31 |

In this example, the customer used 43 “units” of water, or 32,164 gallons (1 unit = 748 gals), in one month, compared with 31 units used last year.

The CONSUMPTION HISTORY graph (bottom right of your bill -- see sample below) shows monthly water use in units over a one-year period. Customers can compare their water use month by month.



AWA’s “Tiered” water rate structure encourages and rewards water conservation. The first 10 units of water used are charged at the lowest rate.

You can measure your water conservation effort by monitoring your water use each month and comparing your water use to the previous month and year. By keeping most of your water use in the lowest rate tiers, you can save money!

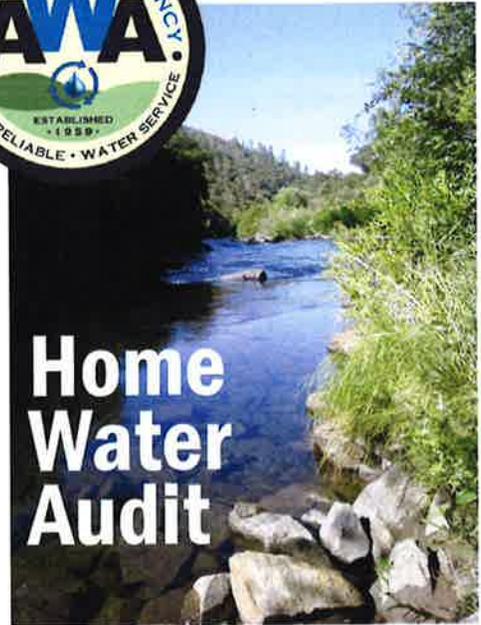
QUESTIONS? Call AWA Customer Service, Monday - Friday, 8 - 5 at 223-3018.

Need More Help?

Amador Water Agency Customer Service staff and field technicians are available to help you with questions concerning how to use this Home Water Audit, problems with leaks, and how you can conserve our most precious resource -- water.

The AWA Customer Service desk is open from 8 am - 5 pm, Monday - Friday, 209-223-3018.

More customer service information and water saving tips are available at: www.amadorwater.org.



The Mokelumne River, supplied by rain and snow in the High Sierras, is the main source of water for Amador County.

Are you using water wisely at home?

This Home Water Audit is a “do-it-yourself” water saving challenge that can result in tremendous savings in household water use.

Amador Water Agency

12800 Ridge Rd, Sutter Creek, CA 95685
209-223-3018
www.amadorwater.org

Check for Leaks

You can significantly reduce water use by simply repairing leaks or drips in faucets and showerheads or pipes.

Outdoor leaks: Don't forget to periodically check the outdoor hoses, sprinklers, and faucets for leaks. Also, remember to keep the sprinkler heads in good shape.

Toilets: Put food coloring or dye tablet in your toilet tank and leave the toilet alone for at least a half hour. If dye from the tank appears in the toilet bowl, you have a leak between the tank and the bowl. You may need to replace the washer between the tank and bowl, or call a plumber.

An unexplained jump in your monthly water bill could mean you have a leak. If you need help locating a leak, contact AWA Customer Service 209-223-3018.

Lawn & Garden Irrigation

Are watering times set for after 7 pm and before 9 am on your automatic watering system?

Check your watering system after it has run part-way through the time cycle. Is there any run-off, street flooding or puddling? Avoid overwatering. Most of the year, lawns only need one inch of water per week, and a heavy rain eliminates the need for watering for up to two weeks.

IMPORTANT

During the current water emergency:

- Water lawns and gardens only between the hours of 7 pm and 9 am.
- Any run-off or street flooding from outdoor irrigation is prohibited. No unattended watering except where automatic shut-off equipment is used.

Use a hose timer if your sprinklers are attached to a hose, consider a hose timer (available at hardware and garden stores). You can set watering time, how often and how long, automatically. Never forget the hose is running again!

Use soaker hoses or drip irrigation for shrubs and trees to apply water directly to the roots where it's needed. If you decide to use a sprinkler, look for models that produce droplets, not mist, and set them to water lawns and gardens only.

Do you have shutoff nozzles on your hoses? Use shutoff nozzles when hand watering.

Install a rain sensor on any automatic irrigation so your system won't run when it's raining.

Swimming Pools & Fountains

Do you have a swimming pool, hot tub, fountain or water feature, or a pond?

Install a water-saving pool filter.

When backflushing your pool, consider using the water on your landscaping.

Cover pools and spas to reduce evaporation.

IMPORTANT

During the current water emergency:

- Drinking water used in decorative fountains must be recirculated.
- Emptying and refilling of swimming pools and hot tubs is prohibited. Maintaining pools, hot tubs and fire protection storage facilities at normal operating levels is permitted.
- Drinking water may not be used in scenic ponds and lakes except for the minimum amount needed to support aquatic life.

Driveways Sidewalks & Patios

Use broom or leaf blower to clean concrete surfaces.

Cars, Boats & Other Vehicles

Use a commercial car wash that recycles water.

When washing your own car, boat or other vehicle, use a shut-off nozzle that can be adjusted down to a fine spray on your hose, or use water from a bucket.

IMPORTANT

During the current water emergency:

- Washing sidewalks, driveways, patios, parking lots, and tennis courts with water is prohibited.
- An automatic shut-off nozzle or valve is required when washing cars and other vehicles.

Waterwise Landscaping

Can you reduce the amount of lawn in your yard?

Lawns often account for the largest portion of a home's water bill. Only use turf where it highlights the home

and has a practical function, such as in play areas. Select a type of grass that can withstand drought periods and become dormant during hot, dry seasons.

Consider native shrubs or groundcover for steep slopes, isolated strips, and shady areas, where it takes a lot of extra work to maintain grass.

Are you using mulch in your planted areas?

A layer of organic mulch around plants to reduces evaporation, retains moisture, reduces weed growth, and saves water, time and money

Visit "Water-Wise Gardening in the Gold Country Region" for a watering guide and practical tips on creating a beautiful garden with less water:

www.rwa.watersavingplants.com

Indoor Water Use

Do you have low flow toilets in the home?

Older toilets, made before 1992, use up to 3.5 gallons per flush, and are responsible for much of the water wasted in American homes. Consider installing an EPA WaterSense® labeled toilet, with a maximum of 1.3 gallons per flush, and equal or superior performance.

Do you have low-flow showerheads and faucets?

Low flow fixtures, including faucet aerators and low-flow showerheads, are generally inexpensive to replace and are one of the most cost-effective water conservation measures, without sacrificing performance. EPA WaterSense®-labeled aerators, faucets, and showerheads are available at hardware and home improvement stores.

Check your dishwasher and washing machine

To save water and energy, wash only full loads in your dishwasher and washing machine; or set the water level for the size of your load, if possible, to use less water.

A traditional top loading **clothes washer** uses three times as much water as front loaders. To purchase a washer that uses less water, look for the blue ENERGYSTAR® label that indicates these washers use 30 percent less energy and 50 percent less water than other current models.

To save water and energy, consider a high-efficiency ENERGYSTAR® labeled model when purchasing a new **dishwasher**. Also, consider appliances that offer cycle and load-size adjustments, which are more water and energy efficient.