



2018 WaterWise High School Video Contest

Theme: ***“Water Use Myths at Home & in the Garden”***

Here’s a list of common water use myths and interesting facts. You are not limited to this list, though please ensure that all information you use in your video(s) is accurate and relevant to Santa Barbara County.

- 1. Myth:** I can save more water inside my house than outside in my garden.
Fact: On average, a household’s outdoor water use can be as high as 60%. The most water can be saved outdoors by irrigating efficiently, checking for leaks, and planting native, drought-tolerant plants instead of turf grass. Learn more about sustainable landscaping [here](#).
- 2. Myth:** If there’s a leak, I’ll be able to hear it.
Fact: Most leaks are silent and if left unnoticed can contribute to the excessive water waste. Learn how to check for leaks [here](#).
- 3. Myth:** Water conservation is only important during a drought.
Fact: Droughts are cyclical and a part of the climate in Santa Barbara County. It’s imperative to always use water efficiently to preserve the local water supplies we depend on. For current drought conditions in the county, click [here](#).
- 4. Myth:** My water conservation efforts won’t make a difference.
Fact: It may seem like one person’s efforts won’t make a difference, but it becomes an example for others around you. For water savings tips, click [here](#).
- 5. Myth:** I have to water every day when it’s hot.
Fact: Plants suffer from overwatering and may even kill them. Overwatering can also contribute to excessive and even harmful water runoff.
- 6. Myth:** I should keep the same watering schedule all year.
Fact: Plants’ watering needs change throughout the year. In Fall through Spring, evaporation rates are lower and soil retains more water. Click [here](#) for more info on weather-based watering or [here](#) for the landscape watering calculator.
- 7. Myth:** Watering my tree by the trunk is the best way to deep water.



Fact: Trees have extensive root systems. The actual trunk of the tree serves as its support base. The root zones, directly underneath the canopy, absorb water and nutrients that feed the tree. Learn how to effectively water trees [here](#).

8. **Myth:** I don't need to save water if it rains.

Fact: Even if we experience heavy and consistent rainfall, water remains a limited resource in Santa Barbara County. That's because we rely heavily on our local water supplies, such as Lake Cachuma and groundwater aquifers, that collect rainwater that we receive infrequently.

9. **Myth:** It's normal for my faucet to drip.

Fact: Leaky faucets can add to significant water waste overtime. Learn how to check for leaks [here](#).