

State Law

As required by State law, Napa County adopted a water efficient landscaping ordinance in 1992. Assembly Bill 1881 (2006) requires the County to implement more stringent water efficient landscape regulations than those required back in 1992. To comply with AB 1881, the County can either implement the State's Model Ordinance, or adopt an equally effective ordinance by January 2010. At this time, Napa County is planning to implement the State's Model Ordinance as allowed under AB 1881.

State Ordinance Provisions

- Minimize overspray and runoff
- Develop suitable water budgets
- Group similar plant types
- Automate irrigation
- Assess soil and its management
- Include maintenance practices
- Capture and retention of storm water onsite
- Encourage use of recycled water
- Encourage economic incentives
- Education of water users

Landscapes in Napa County

Landscapes are essential to the quality of life in Napa County. Our landscaped areas provide for recreation, environmental enhancement, clean air and water, prevent erosion, offer fire protection and replace ecosystems lost due to development.

Additional Resources & Information:

California Department of Water Resources:

- <http://www.water.ca.gov/wateruseefficiency/landscapeordinance>
- <http://www.water.ca.gov/wateruseefficiency/publications/>

Napa County Conservation, Development and Planning:

- <http://www.countyofnapa.org/cdpdprojects/>

City of Napa Water Conservation Program:

- <http://www.cityofnapa.org/water>

US EPA, benefits of water-efficient, low-impact landscaping:

- <http://www.epa.gov/npdcs/pubs/waterefficiency.pdf>



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Water Efficient Landscapes In Napa County

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Water Efficient Landscapes In Napa County

Updated Water Efficient Landscape Regulations



Water waste in Napa County— Sprinkler Overspray

New State Regulations



*What you need
to know!*

Purpose

Adoption of a Water Efficient Landscaping Ordinance is State law. To comply with the law, Napa County is implementing the State's Model Ordinance.

Napa County's economic prosperity and environmental quality are dependant on an adequate supply of water. About half of urban water use is used for landscape irrigation. Ensuring efficient landscapes in new and rehabilitated developments and reducing water waste in existing landscapes are the most cost-effective ways to stretch limited water supplies and ensure that Napa County continues to have sufficient water to prosper.



Goals for Water Efficient Landscapes

- Establish a means to design, install, maintain and manage water efficient landscapes.
- Reduce water use to the lowest practical amount and set upper limits allowed usage.
- Establish water management practices and waste prevention for established landscapes.
- Promote the values and benefits of landscapes, recognizing the need to use water and resources efficiently.

Applicability

Does this apply to me?

The 2010 State regulations apply to most new and rehabilitated landscaped areas that require a building permit and contain:

2500 sq. ft. or more (landscaped area) for public agency (parks, schools, city properties), private development (retail, industrial, commercial properties) and developer-installed single family and multi-family developments, and

5000sq ft. or more (landscaped area) homeowner-provided (DIY or contractor) single-family and multi-family projects.

Exemptions exist for historical sites, environmental restoration projects, mine-land reclamation and public botanical collections.

Submittal/Permit Requirements

What do I need to comply?

Upon permit application, submittal of a signed **Landscape Documentation Package** which includes:

1. Project Information,
2. Water Efficient Landscape Worksheet & Water Budget,
3. Soil Management Report,
4. Landscape Design Plan,
5. Irrigation Design Plan, and
6. Grading Design Plan



A **Certificate of Completion** must also be provided after installation that includes:

1. Certification of Installation,
2. Final Soils Information,
3. Irrigation Scheduling Parameters,
4. Maintenance Schedules, and
5. Irrigation Audit Report.

A final certificate of occupancy can not be granted until a Certificate of Completion has been submitted and reviewed.

Existing landscaped areas

State law now requires the County to conduct surveys/audits of all existing landscaped areas over 1 acre and provide recommendations to owners on how to prevent water waste. Those areas that are metered will be provided further recommendations on how not to exceed the **Maximum Applied Water Allowance** for existing landscapes (1992 standards). All audits shall be conducted by a certified landscape auditor.

Guidance & Help

The County is required to provide educational information about water efficient landscaping to owners of new single-family homes. The County has also developed an application packet to assist those needing to comply with the State's Model Ordinance. The application packet is available online (see link on other side) and at the Conservation, Development and Planning Department counter. Online links to other useful resources are also provided in this brochure.