



Frequently Asked Questions – Homeowners

This program aims to reduce water use by incentivizing customers to convert their water-guzzling grass into beautiful water-friendly landscape. Here are the most frequently asked questions about DWA's grass to desert landscape program:

Who is eligible to apply?

All applicants must be DWA customers within our service boundaries, the property owners of the site, and in good standing with the Agency. The property must have grass in place (dead or alive) that is wholly visible from the street. The program is **NOT** retroactive.

How much is the rebate?

The rebate is \$1.00 for each square foot of grass removed up to \$1,500 for front/side yards visible from the street.

What if I want to remove grass in a yard that isn't visible?

The State of California also offers funding for turf removal. Please visit www.SaveOurWaterRebates.com for eligibility requirements and additional information.

Where can I find examples of desert landscaping?

Examples of desert landscaping can be found at DWA's Operation Center Demonstration Gardens, and reading materials can be found in the Agency's lobby. The book *Lush & Efficient* is available online or at DWA's office for free. Visit www.dwa.org or www.CVWaterCounts.com for more inspiration.

PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

What steps do I need to follow to participate in the program?

1. Submit an application to DWA. (Single-family homes are accepted first-come, first served, so apply ASAP)
2. DWA will notify you if you have been approved.
3. Complete your project within 90 days, take a photo and fill out the project completion check list at www.dwa.org/projectcomplete.
4. DWA will do an inspection after you submit your checklist.
5. Your rebate will be issued within 60 days of our inspection of your property.

How do I apply?

Applicants may apply by visiting www.dwa.org/turf. Applications are available **online**. Single-family homes will be accepted on a first come, first served basis. However, please do not rush applications as incomplete applications may delay approval. Contact DWA for ADA accommodations.

Can I apply for funding from DWA and the State of California?

Yes. We encourage our program participants to seek additional funding from the state. Please visit www.SaveOurWaterRebates.com for their project eligibility requirements and additional information.

What documents do I need for the application?

- ✓ DWA account number
- ✓ Contact person name, email and phone number
- ✓ Property & mailing address(es) for correspondence and rebate check
- ✓ Assessor's Parcel Number (contact County)
- ✓ Project bid or cost estimate for the conversion
- ✓ Photo of the project area from the street
- ✓ Square footage of area where funding is requested (Square footage worksheet available at www.dwa.org/turf. DWA will verify.)
- ✓ Signed W-9 form

How do I calculate my square footage?

Review the square footage worksheet available at www.dwa.org/turf and/or contact a landscape professional to measure. Once submitted, we will use that number to determine the amount of your rebate. Accuracy is important. If you underestimate, we will not be able to give you more budget. If you overestimate, we may disqualify your project from receiving any funding.



How do I find my APN or parcel number(s)?

You can find your Assessor's Parcel Number or APN by visiting: <http://pic.asrcrkrec.com> and entering your address. You can also contact Riverside County.

Why do I need a bid/estimate/budget for the project before I am approved?

Many approved applicants have dropped out in the past after learning about the cost to complete their project. Taking these steps will allow you to determine if the project is feasible for you at this time. You do not have to use the contractor that provided you with the bid.

How much time do I have to complete the conversion?

Residents will have 90 days to notify DWA of the project's completion. One extension of up to three weeks may be granted if there is cause and significant effort is being made to complete the project. Finishing early will not lead to receiving your rebate check sooner since inspections are being consolidated.

How do I request an inspection?

Once you have completed your project and checked to make sure it meets all grant requirements, go to www.dwa.org/projectcomplete and fill out the checklist. This will trigger our staff to come inspect your property.

What will happen at my inspection?

A staff member will visit the site and inspect the work to ensure that it has been completed according to the customer's application and DWA's terms and conditions. The staff member will do a visual inspection to verify square footage submitted. A photograph will be taken. To save time, appointments will not be scheduled and you need not be present.

Why do I have to submit a W-9?

Unfortunately, these rebates are currently taxable. Please contact your Senators and Congress member to ask them to make water conservation rebates tax exempt.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Fifty percent of the conversion area must have plant coverage. What does this mean?

The 50 percent plant coverage requirement means that you must plant enough desert plants to cover half of the conversion area once the plants are fully grown. Alternatively, you may install artificial turf. Visit www.dwa.org/turf for a list of commonly used trees and plants. If you don't see yours on the list, give us a call.

What plants am I allowed to use?

You may use any plant you'd like that can thrive without spray irrigation. No grasses allowed.

Is gravel, decomposed granite or another ground cover required?

Yes. If you're using desert plants, you must use mulch, rock or decomposed granite. You may also use all artificial turf.

What are the irrigation system requirements?

Program participants must also install a low-flow irrigation system on the conversion area (all irrigation below 20 gallons per hour). The conversion area must be on a separate irrigation valve from any irrigation that does not meet the flow requirements.

I'm replacing my grass with synthetic turf. Do I qualify?

Yes.

I'm pulling out my grass and putting down a patio. Do I qualify?

No. Non-permeable hardscape does not qualify for rebate funds. You can include a patio in your plan, but exclude that square footage from your project area calculation.

I already removed my grass. Can I get a rebate now?

No. The grass to desert landscape program is not retroactive. Rebates only apply to projects that are pre-approved through the process described above. Past turf removal projects do not qualify.

Do I need to keep my receipts from the project?

Yes. We will not collect them but may need them for grant purposes. We ask that you keep them for two years.



Visit www.dwa.org/turf