



pima.gov/sustainable

TIPS FOR DESERT DWELLERS



Water Conservation

- Plant low-water use and drought-tolerant grasses, ground covers, shrubs and trees.
- Group plants according to their water needs.
- Collect and use rain water for watering your landscape.
- When watering outside please keep it on your property – not the street.
- Turn the water off whenever possible.
- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways and sidewalks.

Be a Good Neighbor

- Trim your grass and weeds. Please don't let them grow taller than a dollar bill (6 inches).
- Pick up – recycle or dispose all garbage, automotive parts, appliances, furniture, building and landscaping materials, used tires, paper, cardboard, plastic, and other items.
- Trim overgrown trees and vegetation. Do not let your plants overhang onto sidewalks, alleys or street. If you can walk into it – trim it.
- All vehicles need to have current registration tags and be in working order. Park a vehicle in a carport, or cover it with a car cover if you can't drive it.
- Working on your home? Making an upgrade? *Stop!* Make sure you have proper permits in place before you add a room, carport, or any permanent structure to your property.
- Pick up all animal waste, bag it and place in garbage can.

Garbage and Recycling

- Contact Tucson Clean and Beautiful to find out about recycling, landfills, and waste. Learn how you can reduce junk mail, dispose of household hazardous waste, start composting, and more.
- Recycle or offer for reuse that cardboard from your move.
- Ask your waste hauler what their recycling guidelines are.
- Avoid bugs, rodents, odor, and mess – Use a bag in your house garbage can, then put that full bag in the garbage can outside, and bring to curb when collection day arrives.
- Bring your garbage and recycle containers back to the house after pick up.
- Pick up litter, even if it's not yours.
- Get a receipt if you hire someone to haul junk to the dump, proving that they took it to the landfill.
- Reuse a food can for leftover cooking grease. When it's full, seal it up, and put it in your garbage can, or take it to the Household Hazardous Waste Program for recycling.
- Put medical sharps in rigid (labeled) container, seal it, and when full put it in your garbage can.
- Reduce your waste, reuse what you can, and recycle what's left. *Try for zero waste.*

Helpful Contacts in Tucson

Arizona Dept. of Water Resources.....	azwater.gov	770-3800
Carpool – Ride Share	pagnet.org	884-7433
City of Tucson.....	tucsonaz.gov	791-4010
City of Tucson Dept. of Neighborhood Resources		792-2489
City of Tucson Environmental Services		791-3171
Illegal Dump Hotline		622-5800
Pima County Environmental Quality.....	deq.pima.gov	243-7400
Pima County Health Department.....		243-7770
Sun Tran.....	suntran.com	792-9222
Tucson Clean and Beautiful.....	tucsonrecycles.org	791-5000
Tucson Electric Power	tep.com	623-7711
Tucson/Pima County Household Hazardous Waste.....		888-6947



Top Energy Savings Tips

- Check and change filters at least once a month in the summer and once every three months in the winter - whether your filter is located in the air handler or in a hall return grille. Be sure to also rinse out and return your fresh air ventilation filter at the same time you are checking your return filter.
- Turn off ceiling fan in a room that is not occupied. A fan's purpose is to circulate air, not cool it.
- If you are leaving your home for a day or two, you can save energy by adjusting the temperature of your thermostat by two to three degrees. If away from the house longer, you can make a 10 degree adjustment. TEP's Guarantee Home Program recommends a set temperature of 72°F or lower in the winter, and 75°F or higher in the summer.
- Avoid the use of an additional freezer or refrigerator. If you need extra food storage, try to keep the freezer or refrigerator inside the house, and not in the garage, carport or porch. Keeping extra appliances inside will still impact your energy usage, but not as much as if it were located outside.
- Keep doors and windows closed while your heat pump is operating. In the winter, heat escapes your home, and in the summer the heat will be entering your home.
- Use energy efficient appliances. Energy Star, a government-backed program promoting superior energy efficiency, labels high-efficient appliances with its Energy Star logo. With Energy Star labeled appliances (the most efficient you can buy), you can save up to 30 percent on your electric bills, or more than \$400 per year.
- Replace your incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs (CFL). CFLs last longer and use much less energy, saving you about \$30 or more per bulb in energy costs. However, CFLs contain traces of mercury. When a CFL expires, bring it to the Household Hazardous Waste collection site for recycling.
- Use light-emitting diode (LED) lighting. LEDs use even less energy than CFLs, are mercury free, and are available for use in flashlights, headlamps, brake lights, street lights, spot lights, and string Christmas lights.

Transportation and Air Quality

- Take the bus and avoid driving alone.
- Walk places when you can.
- Carpooling saves money and keeps our air clean.
- Use a propane gas grill or if you must use charcoal, use a charcoal starter can or electric starter.
- Sweep and/or rake instead of using a leaf blower.
- Drive slower on dirt roads, it keeps the dust down.
- Keep your tires properly inflated – they'll last longer and your car will get better gas mileage.
- Combine errands into one trip.
- If schools are close enough have kids walk or ride their bike to school.
- Maintain your vehicle, it will pollute less and you will save money.

A few more tips

- It's safe to drink the water from the tap.
- Empty all standing water containers to avoid mosquito breeding.
- Use solar energy.

Prepared by Pima County Environmental Quality with assistance from Arizona Department of Water Resources, City of Tucson's Department of Neighborhood Resources and Environmental Services, Habitat for Humanity, Tucson Electric Power, and Pima Community College. Please share this information with others before you recycle this flyer.