



Your source for all things water

Electronic meter rollout ramps up

Ever wonder how much water your family uses in a day? Or how much you'd save watering by hand instead of running the sprinklers? For the 65,000 customers already equipped with SAWS ConnectH2O electronic water meters, the answers to those questions — and so much more — are now just a click or tap away.

SAWS began installing the modern electronic meters last year, giving customers instant access to their hourly water use information.

“Our goal is to help you better understand and monitor your water use — to stop high water bills before they happen, saving you water and money,” said Karen Guz, SAWS vice president of Conservation.



While sometimes called “smart meters,” the ConnectH2O devices aren't really all that clever. They simply take a meter reading once an hour and transmit it back to SAWS — wirelessly and securely.

The “smart” part is your ability to view and track your water use. Just log in at saws.org/myaccount and look for the “My Use” tab.



A smartphone app is also in the works to make monitoring your water even easier. Advanced features such as leak finder tools and high use alerts are also being developed.

The SAWS Board of Trustees recently voted to bring management of the ConnectH2O installation in-house, to speed up the pace of rollout. SAWS is currently connecting about 4,000 electronic meters per month. That's expected to ramp up to 17,000 per month in 2024.

While installation so far has focused on new homes and “sick” meters, widespread replacements will begin later this year. The aim is to swap out all 550,000 of the utility's mechanical meters by the end of 2026.

“You'll get a post-card in the mail about two weeks ahead of your scheduled meter replacement,” said Meghan Patronella,

Customer Service director. “We also have a dedicated team to answer any questions you may have after your ConnectH2O meter is installed.”

To learn more, visit saws.org/connect.

Fall for less water

Your landscape is preparing for its long winter's nap. That means it doesn't absorb as much water, and soil evaporation drops significantly.

Autumn is the ideal time to stop widespread watering — especially with your irrigation system. It's as easy as 1-2-3.

1. **Cut run times in half.** For a lawn in full sun, reduce the run time from 22 minutes to 11 minutes.



2. **Use the seasonal adjust.** If your controller has this feature, use it to decrease all settings by 50 percent.

3. **Turn it off.** If rainfall is below historic averages, you can run your system manually.

Hand watering is always the most efficient way to save water and money. Visit GardenStyleSA.com for weekly watering amounts and tips to keep your yard looking great using less water.



Budding artists — gather your drawing supplies for **Sketching in the Garden** at San Antonio Botanical Garden, 9-11 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 18. Learn about the practice of sketching as seeing. Tickets at sabot.org/events.

Event Calendar

Cinema On Will's Plaza: Coco

Nov. 10

Tobin Center
100 Auditorium Circle
tobincenter.org/cinema

2023 SA Veterans Day at Hemisfair

Nov. 11

Hemisfair
630 E. Nueva St.
hemisfair.org/veteransday

Texas WaterSaver Gardening Guided Tour

Nov. 16

San Antonio Botanical Garden
555 Funston Place
sabot.org

Beginner Bird Walk

Nov. 25

Mitchell Lake Audubon Center
10750 Pleasanton Road
mitchelllake.audubon.org

River Walk Holiday Artisan Show

Dec. 8

San Antonio River Walk
Near Chamber of Commerce
thesanantonioriverwalk.com

Customer Service and
24-hour Emergency
210-704-SAWS (7297)
saws.org/waternews

Updating the watering rules: SAWS wants your input

Water conservation is everyone's responsibility, especially during extreme drought. In addition to alternate water supplies, the city's conservation ordinance helps prevent more severe cutbacks.

And most customers get it. They diligently follow the rules and keep their water use low. But there are those who repeatedly ignore the rules and continue to water more than once a week — despite Stage 2 watering rules that have been in place since April 2022.

That's why SAWS leaders are considering updating the rules and how they're enforced. Your opinion matters — **we want to hear what you think at wateringrules.com**.

These are the proposed updates:

- Switching from a municipal court citation to a fee on the bill that can apply to all SAWS customers — including those in separately incorporated cities.

- Adding fees for very high use or repeat violators.
- Replacing current Stage 3 watering rules with an excess-use surcharge for high users.
- Limiting drip irrigation to one day a week on designated watering day.
- Ensuring a more thorough inspection of new irrigation systems so customers at new homes and businesses get the benefit of the high standards set by the State of Texas.

Water users who already follow the rules would not notice a change from these updates. For drip users, free consultations are available to help optimize your system and a drip variance is proposed for those growing food and vegetables.

The SAWS Board would ultimately need to vote on any proposed changes, followed by City Council consideration. Take the survey now at wateringrules.com.

Use WaterSaver Coupons to edit your landscape

It's what gardeners have been waiting for — temperatures much better suited for gardening — and just in time to apply for our WaterSaver Landscape coupons before the Oct. 15 deadline!

Make your landscape Texas tough with native and low-water use plants. SAWS residential customers can apply for up to \$400 in WaterSaver coupons to replace part of your water-demanding grass with lush, drought-tolerant garden beds. Already applied? Be sure to redeem your coupons by Oct. 31!



You can also replace that pain-to-maintain grass with a new deck or patio! Use our Outdoor Living Rebate to help cover the cost of a wooden deck or hardscape made of pavers or stones. Applications for this program are accepted year-round.

For easy-peasy planting like a pro, use our Plant by Numbers designs. There are 16 plans to choose from for sunny and shady areas! Learn more at GardenStyleSA.com/PlantByNumbers.

For program details and to apply online, visit GardenStyleSA.com/coupons.

WRANGLE
YOUR WATER USE
GARDEN LIKE A TEXAN

STAGE 2
WATER WISELY

CHECK THE TIME

7-11 AM
MORNINGS



7-11 PM
EVENINGS



KNOW YOUR DAY

M	T	W	TH	F
0	2	4	6	8
1	3	5	7	9

LAST DIGIT OF ADDRESS

WATER ONCE A WEEK

