

To save precious water, new homes are a great solution

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California is once again dealing with a serious drought. The state received far below normal rainfall and snowfall last winter, and as a result our reservoirs are extremely low. Folsom Lake, for example, is the lowest it's been at this time of year since 1977 and holds just a third of the amount of water it normally would.

In response, Gov. Newsom this month called on Californians to voluntarily reduce their water use by 15%. State agencies will be closely monitoring progress on voluntary conservation and other metrics to determine if additional drought response actions are needed in the weeks and months

to come.

As a result, many prospective homebuyers in the Sacramento area are concerned about how they can conserve water without major changes to their lifestyle. One way to do so is to buy a new home.

That's because today's new homes are built with the latest water-saving technology that dramatically reduces water use. Amazingly enough, today's new homes use half as much water as homes built before 1980. A family living in a typical new three-bedroom single-family home will use about 46,500 gallons of water for internal use – a savings of 47,000 gallons compared to homes built before 1980 and a savings of over 20,500 gallons from homes built in the early 1990s.

New homes save so much water because they are equipped with efficient water-saving appliances, faucets and toilets. While homes built in the past few decades also feature some of these water-saving features, the appliances and plumbing in today's new homes have the latest technology that makes them not only efficient but effective. Washing machines, dishwashers and toilets do a great job while saving thousands of gallons of water every year.

Many builders are also exploring other new water-saving technologies, such as smart water systems that track how much water each fixture uses, allowing homeowners to set conservation goals and provide an early warning if there is a water leak somewhere in the system.

Other options often available include such products as dual-flush toilets, tankless water heaters and recirculating hot water systems that no longer make people have to allow gallons of cold water to run down the drain until the needed hot water reaches the faucet.

But where new homes have an especially large water-saving advantage over homes built just a decade ago is outside the house.

Modern landscaping designs reduce the amount of water-consuming turf and feature drought-resistant plants that need far less water than plants that used to be commonly used. These designs still include areas of grass for kids and dogs to play on but reduce the water consumption of a family living in a

new home by about 20%, or about 12,000 gallons a year

In addition, new California homes are equipped with smart Irrigation controllers that use local weather data to determine when and how much to water.

Some systems also feature soil moisture-based control technologies that water plants based on their needs by measuring the amount of moisture in the soil and tailoring the irrigation schedule accordingly.

So if you're in the market for a home and want to live in one that will allow you to use far less water than you would in an older home, take a look at the hundreds of new home communities in the greater Sacramento area.

You'll find the home that meets your needs and saves water besides!