

# HOW TO KEEP TREES ALIVE IN THE DROUGHT

In times of drought, our city's trees need our help. When we cut down on watering our landscapes, our trees suffer especially those that grew dependent on lawn watering. A tree may look healthy, but without adequate water it becomes stressed and may die. Look around your neighborhood. Stressed trees are everywhere: dry and sparse leaf coverage, dead and dying branches. When it comes to sharing our water, trees should be our priority!

## CAPTURE WATER FOR USE

Shower water inside, rain barrel/cistern outside

## CONSIDER INSTALLING A GRAY WATER SYSTEM

## WATERING BASIN

## WATERING YOUNG TREES

**How often:** About once a week.

**How much:** About 15-20 gallons of water (three or four 5 gallon buckets) for a 15 gallon tree.

**How to do it:** Create a 3-4 foot wide basin around the tree to hold the water. Use a bucket to deliver water slowly into the basin.

## CHECK FIRST!

Dig your finger down into the soil at least four inches and check for moisture. If the soil below ground is still wet, don't water. If it is dry, give the tree water.

## USE CAPTURED WATER!

Collect excess water from indoor use – put a bucket in the shower while it warms up! Or install a series of rain barrels or a cistern to collect rain water.

## MULCH!

Add a 4 inch layer of mulch or wood chips covering the soil around the tree but keep it a few inches from the trunk. If used, cover the in-line emitter hose as well.

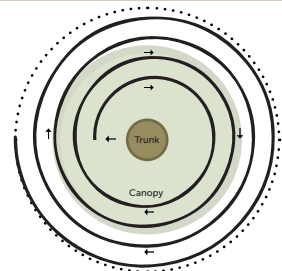
## WATERING MATURE TREES

**How often:** About once or twice a month.

**How much:** Water needs to soak down 12 to 18 inches. Measure moisture depth with a soil probe/sampler, or simply shove a long-blade screwdriver into the soil. When it won't go further, you've most likely hit the dry layer.

**How to do it:** If you can, use "in-line emitter hose" found at home improvement stores. Start about halfway from the trunk. Spiral it outward, forming concentric circles out beyond the drip line. Consult the store specialist for how to connect to your water source. Run it until the water depth is 12 to 18 inches (this could take one or more hours).

Extend the irrigation beyond the canopy edge equal to the distance from the trunk to the start of the irrigation tubing.



## WHAT ELSE?

Visit [www.TreePeople.org](http://www.TreePeople.org) for more resources including workshops, tours, project toolkits, volunteering opportunities and more!