

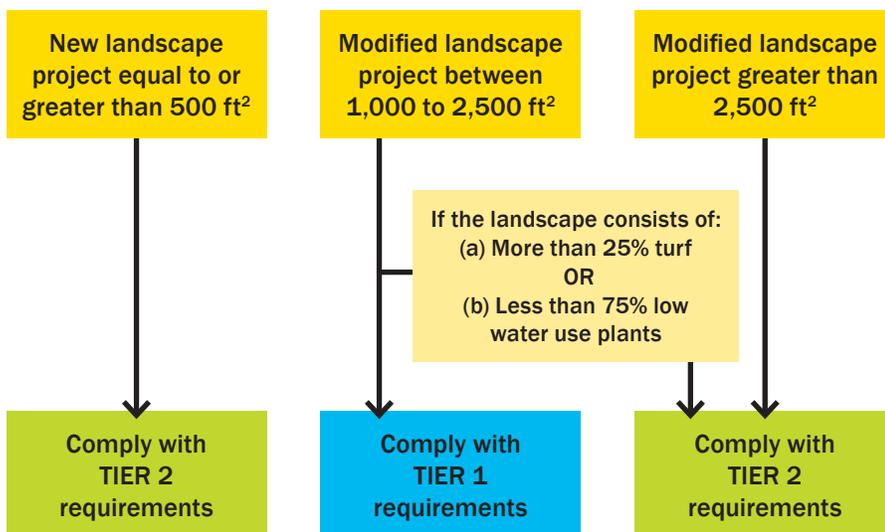
# Complying with San Francisco's Landscape and Irrigation Requirements

Landscapes that utilize water-wise principles not only conserve water but help prevent runoff, provide a natural habitat for local wildlife, result in reduced maintenance costs, and contribute to the beauty of our urban landscapes. To help California cities promote water-efficient landscapes, the state passed the Water Conservation in Landscaping Act, requiring all communities to adopt efficiency requirements for new or modified landscape projects.

To meet this mandate, San Francisco adopted the Water Efficient Irrigation Ordinance and companion regulations implemented by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC). Together, these provide the requirements for the design, installation and maintenance of San Francisco landscapes.

## WHO NEEDS TO COMPLY?

Whether you're installing a landscape as part of a new construction project or modifying an existing one, the Water Efficient Irrigation Ordinance applies to all residential, commercial, mixed-use, and public landscaping projects with 500 square feet or more. Follow the chart below to see how your landscape project shall comply with the requirements.



## UPDATE FOR 2022

Due to California's ongoing drought, the state passed an emergency drought regulation prohibiting the irrigation of non-functional turf on commercial, industrial, and institutional (CII) sites and continues until the drought is declared over.

For more information on the State Water Resources Control Board Resolution, visit [www.waterboards.ca.gov](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov) and search Resolution No. 2022-0018.



## HOW DO I COMPLY?

To comply with the Water Efficient Irrigation Ordinance, submit a Tier 1 or Tier 2 application to the SFPUC Water Conservation Section at [landscape@sfgwater.org](mailto:landscape@sfgwater.org)

### TIER 1

Complying with Tier 1 requirements includes a simple self-certification checklist that your landscape project complies with key elements of the Water Efficient Irrigation Ordinance.

- Step 1: Submit a **Tier 1 Application** before you install the landscape. The SFPUC will review the application and notify you when the project is approved.
- Step 2: Install your water-efficient landscape
- Step 3: Submit a **Certificate of Completion** after installation



### TIER 2

Complying with Tier 2 requirements includes the submission of your landscape project's construction documents and water use calculations.

- Step 1: Submit a **Tier 2 Application** before you install the landscape. Along with your application, include the following electronic documentation:
  - Planting plan
  - Grading plan (if significant grading)
  - Irrigation plan
  - Soil management report or soil specification

The SFPUC will review the application package and notify you when the project is approved.

- Step 2: Install your water-efficient landscape
- Step 3: Submit a **Certificate of Completion** after installation



## WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFO?

For more information on complying with San Francisco's Water Efficient Irrigation Ordinance, visit <https://sfpuc.org/learning/gardens-and-landscapes/water-efficient-irrigation-ordinance>. If you have a specific question about your Tier 1 or Tier 2 project application, please contact the SFPUC Water Conservation Section at [landscape@sfgwater.org](mailto:landscape@sfgwater.org) or call **(415) 551-4730**.

## ONLINE RESOURCES

- [The San Francisco Plant Water Use List](#)
- [SFPUC Rules and Regulations for Water Efficient Irrigation](#)
- [SFPUC Landscape Assistance Programs](#)
- [Guidebook to Water-Wise Gardening in San Francisco](#)



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