

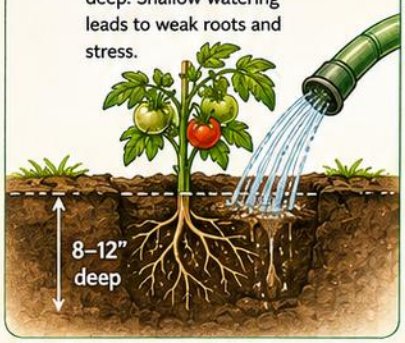
How to WATER Tomato Plants



Consistent watering matters more for tomatoes than almost any other garden vegetable. Uneven watering, particularly a dry spell followed by heavy watering, is the most common cause of split or cracked fruit. Water deeply and regularly, aiming for the soil rather than the leaves, and consider mulching around the base of each plant to help hold moisture steady between waterings.

1 WATER DEEPLY

Water deeply so moisture reaches the roots 8–12" deep. Shallow watering leads to weak roots and stress.



2 WATER AT THE BASE

Aim for the soil, not the leaves. This helps prevent disease and ensures the plant gets the water it needs.



3 WATER REGULARLY

Keep soil evenly moist. Don't let the soil dry out completely between waterings.



4 AVOID UNEVEN WATERING

A dry spell followed by heavy watering can cause split or cracked tomatoes. Keep watering steady.





5 MULCH TO HOLD MOISTURE

Add 2–3 inches of mulch around the base of your plants to help the soil stay moist, reduce weeds, and keep roots cooler.



6 CHECK SOIL MOISTURE

Check soil moisture by sticking your finger 2–3 inches into the soil. If it feels dry, it's time to water.

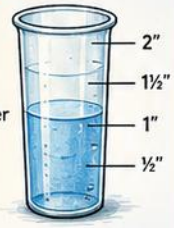


HOW OFTEN?

Most tomato plants need about 1–2 inches of water per week. This may mean watering:

- 2–3 times per week in cool weather
- Every day in hot, dry weather

Adjust based on your weather, soil type, and plant size.



TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- Water early in the day so plants have time to dry.
- Use a soaker hose or drip irrigation if possible.
- Containers dry out faster—check daily.
- Consistent watering = healthy plants and better-tasting tomatoes!

