



Lowering Your Outdoor Water Use

Outdoor Water Conservation Tips

- ◆ Check your well pump periodically. If the automatic pump turns on and off while water is not being used, you have a leak.
- ◆ Plant native and /or drought-tolerant grasses, ground covers, shrubs, and trees. Once established, they do not need water as frequently and usually will survive a dry period without watering. Small plants require less water to become established. Group plants together based on similar water needs.
- ◆ Install irrigation devices that are the most water efficient for each use. Micro and drip irrigation and soaker hoses are examples of efficient devices.
- ◆ Use mulch to retain moisture in the soil. Mulch also helps control weeds that compete with landscape plants for water.
- ◆ Avoid purchasing recreational water toys that require a constant stream of water.
- ◆ Avoid installing ornamental water features (such as fountains) unless they use recycled water.
- ◆ Use a shut-off nozzle that can be adjusted down to a fine spray on your hose.
- ◆ Use a commercial car wash that recycles water. If you wash your own car, park on the grass so that you will be watering at the same time.
- ◆ Avoid over watering your lawn. A heavy rain eliminates the need for watering for up to two weeks. Most of the year, lawns only need one inch of water per week.
- ◆ Water in several short sessions rather than one long one, in order for your lawn to better absorb moisture.
- ◆ Position sprinkler systems and timing devices regularly to be sure they operate properly.
- ◆ Raise the lawn mower blade to at least three inches or to its highest level. A higher cut encourages grass roots to grow deeper, shades the root system, and holds soil moisture.
- ◆ Plant drought-resistant lawn seed.
- ◆ Avoid over-fertilizing your lawn. Applying fertilizer increases the need for water. Apply fertilizers that contain slow-release, water-insoluble forms of nitrogen.
- ◆ Use a broom or blower instead of a hose to clean leaves and other debris from your driveway or sidewalk.
- ◆ Avoid leaving sprinklers or hoses unattended. A garden hose can pour out 600 gallons or more in only a few hours.
- ◆ Install a new water-saving pool filter. A single back flushing with a traditional filter uses 180 to 250 gallons of water.
- ◆ Cover pools and spas to reduce evaporation of water.