



SUMMER WATER CONSERVATION



Outdoor water use can account for more than half of the total water used in summer months. Irrigating a 1,000 square foot lawn with half an inch of water uses 330 gallons of water. Here are some tips for how you can conserve water this summer!

Lawn Care Tips

- Water early in the morning before water demand rises to prevent unnecessary stress on water systems
- Lawn watering is only necessary one to two times a week. If you leave footprints because the grass you stepped on remains flattened, you should water two times per week
- Install shutoff nozzles on hoses to prevent water loss. Hoses without a nozzle can spout 10 gallons or more per minute
- Use drip irrigation systems to deliver water more efficiently to flower beds, shrubs, vegetable gardens, and newly planted trees
- Minimize mowing during extremely hot periods to help reduce water needs; the longer the grass, the more water can be retained
- During the hot summer months, it is important to water regularly, not all at once during a drought. This will prevent stress during already water-stressed months
- Using a soil moisture meter will allow you to determine if your lawn is too dry, just right, or too wet. Soil moisture meters test the volumetric water content of the soil

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Set your lawn mower blades to 3 inches or higher to shade soil and maintain moisture



DID YOU KNOW?

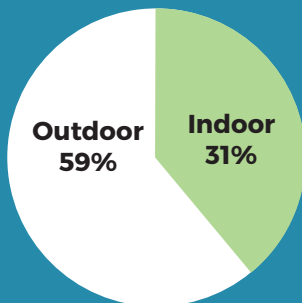
- If you are able to choose what to plant in your yard, rain gardens or a grassy swale are excellent options. Rain gardens prevent excessive water use because they are made up of native shrubs and grasses with deep roots that retain water for much longer than short lawn grass. Therefore, they only need water once in a while to be healthy
- Keeping flower and vegetable garden watering, lawn watering, car washing, laundry, and pool filling, separate from each other will lower your peak water demand
- Watering techniques should be matched to soil needs. Watering slowly and deeply during the spring and fall months will allow the water to be absorbed, will train grass roots to grow deeply, and prepare them for dry summer months. Grass roots and blades are generally not growing in the summer, so deep water does not promote root growth at this time. Shallow watering results in root systems that stay near the surface making the lawn drought intolerant.
- You can use cisterns or rain barrels to capture and recycle rain water from downspouts to use for flower beds, shrubs, and newly planted trees. Use a lid, mesh fabric or several drops of baby oil on the surface of the water to prevent mosquitoes from breeding.



50%

of water used for landscape is wasted because of overwatering, leaks, and evaporation

Residential Water Use



American Water Works Research Foundation

FUN FACT:

Replacing lawn areas with native species of trees and shrubs as well as more tolerant grasses such as meadow grasses and wild flowers can greatly reduce water needs

WATER TRIVIA

Q: When is the best time of day to water your lawn?

A: Between 4 and 8 a.m.
Watering at night, especially in periods of hot, humid weather, can cause fungal growth, which leads to lawn diseases.

Q: What soil type is best for conserving water?

A: Loamy soil, which is a mixture of sand, silt, and clay. Loamy soil holds moisture while still allowing water to percolate deep into the ground.

