

TIPS FOR CONSERVING WATER

Tips for Reducing Lawn Water Use

- Don't over water your lawn. Only water every three to five days in the summer. Reduce watering time if needed to eliminate water run off.
- To prevent water loss from evaporation, water your lawn during the cooler part of the day. Avoid watering when it is windy.
- Check sprinklers to ensure they're not watering driveways and walkways.
- Adjust your lawnmower to cut grass to a height of 3 inches or more. Taller grass encourages deeper roots and shades the soil to reduce moisture loss.

Tips for Reducing Garden Water Use

- Add compost or peat moss to soil to improve its water-holding capacity.
- Mulch beds to a depth of 2 to 3 inches to reduce evaporation.
- Put off planting major shrubs. Even drought-tolerant varieties need a season or more of intensive watering to properly develop root systems.
- Install drip irrigation for flowers and shrubs.

Other Tips for Reducing Outdoor Water Use

- Wash your car with a bucket of soapy water and use a nozzle to stop the flow of water from the hose between rinsings.
- Clean driveways and sidewalks with a broom instead of the hose.
- Check for leaks in outdoor faucets, pipes and hoses. Also, check your spa/pool for leaks and have them repaired promptly.
- Cover your spa or pool and reduce evaporation by 90%. An average size pool left uncovered can lose as much as 1,000 gallons of water per month.
- Avoid water toys that need a constant stream of water.
- Use your water meter to check for leaks. Turn off all faucets and water-using appliances, then read your meter. Make sure no one uses water for 30 minutes, then take a second reading. If the dial has moved, you have a leak in a toilet or water pipe.

Tips for Indoor Water Use

- Defrost frozen food in the refrigerator or in the microwave instead of running water over it.
- When washing dishes by hand, use two basins - one for washing and one for rinsing rather than let the water run.
- Repair dripping faucets and leaky toilets. Dripping faucets can waste about 2,000 gallons of water each year. Leaky toilets can waste as much as 200 gallons each day.
- Only run the dishwasher and clothes washer when they are fully loaded. Don't pre-rinse dishes before loading the dishwasher. You'll save as much as 20 gallons a load, or 6,500 gallons per year. Tests show pre-rinsing doesn't improve cleaning.