

Water Rules & Tips

Effective water conservation and efficiency practices can help extend the water supply and meet the water demand expectations well into the future.

Here are some helpful tips to follow inside — and outside — your home.

Water Conservation in the Home

- 1. Fix faucet leaks-**
A leaky faucet can waste up to two gallons of water per day. Make sure your faucets are turned completely off and repair any leaky faucets.
- 2. Fix toilet leaks-**
Put a few drops of food coloring into your toilet tank. If after fifteen minutes the color appears in the bowl, your toilet has a water-wasting leak. Check your toilet for leaks regularly.
- 3. Reduce the water in your toilet tank-**
If you don't have a low flow toilet, you can still reduce toilet water use by up to 20% by placing a half-gallon jug filled with water or sand in your toilet tank.
- 4. Don't use your toilet as a trashcan-**
One unnecessary flush per day wastes up to 1,000 gallons of water over the course of a year.
- 5. Put a low-flow shower head in your shower-**
This can reduce the amount of water you use in the shower by 50%.
- 6. Install a low-flow aerator in your faucet-**
Using an inexpensive, low-flow aerator in your sink can conserve up to six gallons of water per minute.
- 7. Run a full load-**
Wait until you have a full load of dishes or clothes before running the dishwasher or washing machine.

Water Conservation outside the Home

Most water is used outside of the home - mainly to irrigate landscaping.

1. **Monitor your seasonal watering needs -**
Gradually increase the amount you water during the spring season to help meet summer needs and lower it in the fall and winter months.
2. **Water before 10 a.m.**
Up to 1/3 of the water from a sprinkler can be lost to evaporation in the heat and wind.
3. **Use drip irrigation to soak your shrubs and flower beds-**
For shrubs and flower beds, drip irrigation or "soaker hoses" release water slowly near plant roots, where it is needed. Most trees and shrubs require deeper but less frequent watering - usually only once a month.
4. **Don't just landscape - xeriscape -** Xeriscape gardening methods can reduce your water usage by up to 40%. To xeriscape, practice the following:
 - Use mulch to reduce evaporation
 - Till your soil so it absorbs more water
 - Use turf sparingly and only when necessary
 - Choose native plants that use less water
 - Raise the height of your lawnmower
5. **Aerate your lawn to ensure deep and healthy roots**
Most lawns are watered too often and too much. A good rule of thumb is to water for only 15 minutes a day, three times a week in the summer and only once a week in the winter. If you currently water more than this, make changes gradually to allow root systems to adjust. Remember to turn off your sprinklers when it is raining.
6. **Use large-drop sprinklers**
Reduce water evaporation when you water your yard by using sprinklers that produce large drops rather than fine mists.
7. **Don't water the sidewalk or street**
Check your sprinklers monthly and adjust any that are watering the street or sidewalk. Water down the gutter is money down the drain.
8. **Wash your car, not the driveway**
When washing your car, use a hose with a shut-off nozzle.

Did you know that no matter how much you water your hardscape it will never grow?