



Water Conservation Tips

- Set your mower blade higher – at least 3" in length.
- Mow when it's cooler (early morning, later at night).
- Don't water on windy days.
- Water when it's cooler (early morning, late at night). Up to 30% of water can be lost if you water at midday.
- Use a drip irrigation system.
- Don't water your sidewalk/driveway.
- Install a rain sensor on your irrigation controller so that you aren't watering your lawn while it's raining.
- Don't let the hose run. Use a hose nozzle.
- Use rain barrels to collect rain runoff from roof (saves about 1,300 gal/month for homeowners during peak summer months).
- Check pools often for leaks. Use a pool cover. The average pool takes 2,200 gallons to fill, and hundreds of gallons can be lost due to evaporation if left uncovered.
- Don't wash dishes by hand – use the dishwasher.
- Take showers, not baths. Baths use about 70 gallons of water while a 5-minute shower uses between 10 and 25 gallons of water.
- Shorten your shower. Try to take showers that are 5 minutes or less.
- Check toilets, pipes, and faucets for leaks. Fix promptly.
- Insulate hot water pipes.
- About 22% of indoor water usage comes from doing laundry. To cut down on water consumption, use efficient appliances, and make sure you're doing full laundry loads. If it's not a full load, adjust the water level to match the load size.
- Use mulch.
- Keep a water pitcher in the fridge for daily use.
- Use a water bottle.
- Thaw food in the fridge instead of under running water. Steam veggies in the microwave. Wash produce in a bowl.

- Save extra/used water and use it to water plants later.
- Don't overwater. For lawns, make sure they get about 1" per week. Don't water outside the root zone.
- Store hoses in the shade.
- Water plants with larger amounts of water at longer intervals. This encourages deeper root growth and stronger turf.
- Use a broom to clean sidewalk, driveway, and patio – not water.
- Water lawn only if it needs it (if it doesn't spring back when you step on it).
- Wash car with a bucket and sponge instead of the hose.
- Don't leave the water running. If you do, use that extra water for something else.
- Attend a landscaping class:
 - Create classes in partnership with the Chamber and Sustainability Commission?
 - Beaver Creek
 - Down to Earth Garden Center
 - Rainmaster Lawn Systems
- Try xeriscaping (landscaping that reduces the need of supplemental water from irrigation). This is landscaping with water conservation as its major objective.
- Drought-Tolerant Landscaping:
 - Reduce the amount of lawn in your yard and replace it with low-water-needs plants.
 - Plant a natural meadow.
 - Group plants together based on their water needs. For those that need more water, plant them in containers that will hold water in.
 - Groundcovers are good plants to use that can catch water runoff
 - Mulch is essential for conserving water.
 - Use native plants in your landscaping.
 - Make use of your shady areas. Shade helps reduce the need for water.
 - Add a fountain that recycles its water as a focal point.
 - Create permeable walkways. Create gaps between pavers for water to soak in.