

Outdoor Water Conservation

Watering efficiently

Water your lawn only when it needs it

A good way to see if your lawn needs watering is to step on the grass. If it springs back up when you move, it doesn't need water. If it stays flat, the lawn is ready for watering. Letting the grass grow taller (to 3") will also promote water retention in the soil.

Most lawns only need about 1" of water each week. During dry spells, you can stop watering altogether and the lawn will go brown and dormant. Once cooler weather arrives, the morning dew and rainfall will bring the lawn back to its usual vigor.

This may result in a brown summer lawn, but it saves a lot of water.

Water during the early parts of the day

Early morning is generally better than dusk since it helps prevent the growth of fungus. Early watering, and late watering, also reduce water loss to evaporation. Watering early in the day is also the best defense against slugs and other garden pests.

Monitor your irrigation

Position your sprinklers so water lands on the lawn or garden, not on paved areas. Also, avoid watering on windy days. Wind can blow sprinklers off target and speed up evaporation. Do regular maintenance checks to make sure drip irrigation is working properly and not dripping in unnecessary areas.



Plant drought-resistant lawns, shrubs and plants

Many beautiful shrubs and plants thrive with far less watering than other species. Replace herbaceous perennial borders with native plants. Native plants will use less water and be more resistant to local plant diseases. Plant slopes with plants that will retain water and help reduce runoff. Group plants according to their watering needs.

Put a layer of mulch around trees and plants

Mulch will slow evaporation of moisture while discouraging weed growth. Adding 2 - 4 inches of organic material such as compost or bark mulch will increase the ability of the soil to retain moisture.

Press the mulch down around the drip line of each plant to form a slight depression which will prevent or minimize water runoff.



Reduce the amount of water used for shrubs, beds and lawns by:

- The strategic placement of soaker hoses
- Installing a rain barrel water catchment system
- Installing a simple drip-irrigation system



Repairing a leaking hose

If there is a hole in the garden hose: With garden shears, cut the damaged section of the hose off. This involves actually severing your hose into parts. Once you've cut off the damaged part of the hose, you are going to install a hose repair kit. A hose repair kit contains two clamps and a coupler.



Slide the clamp onto one end of the hose. Now slide the coupler into that end, and slide the clamp down over the coupler. Tighten the screws on the clamp with a screwdriver. Do the same thing on the other end. This is more effective than trying to seal up the hole in a garden hose with epoxy or glue.