

THE COMMUNITY BUILDER

Outdoor Water Conservation Tips

Even though we use water every day, it's easy to take it for granted. Just imagine how you would function without clean water. It's everyone's responsibility to conserve and protect water resources. The decisions and actions you make today truly affect our water resources for the future.

The following suggestions will help you get in the habit of saving water in the great outdoors:

1. Get a rain gauge to measure rainfall. One inch of rain per week is generally sufficient for lawns and gardens. Supplement with irrigation only when the rainfall is inadequate. Put a rain sensor on your irrigation system. When it has rained, it will automatically control your irrigation not to come on.
2. Use mulch around landscape plantings. Mulch will help eliminate weeds and hold moisture in the soil.
3. Select hardy plants that don't need much water. Native plants that are well adapted to your climate and soils will survive well without extra watering.
4. Water during the cool part of the day to avoid rapid evaporation. If you are under watering restrictions, observe carefully the guidelines.
5. Raise mowing heights on your lawn mower. This promotes healthier grass that can better survive dry periods.
6. When watering is necessary, water slowly and thoroughly. If you notice puddles or runoff, turn water off and wait for water to soak in. Also, be sure your sprinkler puts water where you need it - not on driveways or sidewalks or roads.
7. Wash cars efficiently. First, give the car a quick rinse and then turn the water off (or use a nozzle that shuts off automatically when the handle is released). Wash one section of the car at a time and rinse that section quickly. Turn the water off each time.

Water is one of our most precious resources. Use it wisely and well.