

Water Smart™

HOUSEHOLD CONSERVATION

Implement proven conservation practices at home to save water and money.

OUTDOOR WATER SAVINGS

- 1 Water only between 8 p.m. and 8 a.m., April 15th through October 1st.
- 2 Water only as rapidly as the soil can absorb.
- 3 Install an automated drip irrigation system.
- 4 Check irrigation system often for clogs or damage; repair or replace immediately.
- 5 Adjust sprinkler heads so that they do not spray onto walkways, driveways, roads or buildings.
- 6 If watering with a hose, set a kitchen timer or alarm clock as a reminder to shut it off.
- 7 Adjust irrigation controllers for seasonal changes.
- 8 Group plants with similar water needs on the same irrigation zone.
- 9 Consider an annual irrigation consultation by a certified auditor.
- 10 Consider reducing or eliminating large or unused lawn areas.
- 11 When adding or replacing a plant, consider a drought tolerant species.
- 12 Plant seasonal flowers in sheltered areas.
- 13 Add mulch on planting beds to reduce evaporation.
- 14 Monitor lawn for moisture stress. Tip: Walk across the lawn, if footprints appear, it is time to water.
- 15 Increase water-use efficiency by watering plants deeply but less often.
- 16 Winterize irrigation systems to avoid costly repairs and water loss.

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- 17 Use a soil probe to determine depth of water infiltration.
- 18 Harvest rainwater to supplement irrigation needs.
- 19 Redirect runoff to landscaped areas.
- 20 Install an automatic irrigation controller.
- 21 Aerate and dethatch lawns as needed to allow water to reach roots.
- 22 Use commercial car washes that recycle water.
- 23 Raise the mower height. Never remove more than one-third of the total height of the grass at any one time.
- 24 Sweep, do not use water to clean walks and driveways.

INDOOR WATER SAVINGS

Detecting a Leak

1. Locate the water meter.
2. Turn off all indoor and outdoor water using devices.
3. Record the water meter reading.
4. Wait 30 minutes; read the meter again.
5. If the reading is different, there is a leak.

Repairing a Leak

1. Check the toilets first. Put 10-15 drops of food dye in the tank and wait 5-10 minutes. If the dye color is in the bowl; there is a leak. The flapper or tank ball is most likely the cause.
2. Replace worn out washers in faucets and showerheads.
3. Make sure all faucets are turned off. A faucet drip can waste up to 5,148 gallons of water per year.
4. Check all household appliances, including the hot water heater and evaporative cooler, for leaks at connection points.
5. Make certain the level in the water pan of evaporative coolers is below the top of the overflow pipe.

For more information and helpful community links, visit the Coalition website at

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