



WATER CONSERVATION

Tips for Saving Water Outdoors

Landscape Water Savings

Attractive gardens and landscapes add value to our homes and can bring years of enjoyment, but they can also consume more water than all other household uses combined. Landscapes can be both beautiful and water efficient. There are many simple things you can do to improve an *existing landscape*. Or, if you are more ambitious you can design and install a new water-wise landscape. Both approaches can improve the health and beauty of your landscape while saving water and lowering your utility bill. Here are some tips to save water and improve the health of an existing landscape:



- Irrigate efficiently. Most lawns need no more than one inch of water a week. Reducing your sprinkler's flow rate helps prevent runoff and will allow water to penetrate the soil and encourage deeper root penetration.
- Don't cut your lawn too short and use water-wise plants that, when established, need less water to flourish.
- Improve your soil with mulch or other soil additive.
- Harvest your rainwater and use as supplemental irrigation water for your outdoor plants.

Outdoor Cleaning Water Savings

Eliminating outdoor cleaning of pavements and cars is an excellent way to conserve water. The best way to clean outdoors is to use a broom and sweep. A typical hose flows at a rate of 5 to 8 gallons per minute (gpm). If your hose runs at 7gpm, that 5 minute driveway hose-down uses 35 gallons of water and a 15 minute car wash uses 105 gallons of water. Eliminating your weekly 5 minute pavement hose-down could save between 625 and 2,500 gallons of water per year depending upon the flow rate and frequency of use.

