

OUTDOOR WATER CONSERVATION

Landscape irrigation typically accounts for about 70 percent of total water use. During cooler winter months, landscapes need very little water, making this an easy time of year to conserve water. Here are some more easy water saving tips:

Use a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways, sidewalks and patios

- Save 5 gallons per minute

Use an automatic shut-off nozzle on your hose

- Save 5 gallons per minute

Install a water-efficient drip irrigation system for your trees, shrubs and flowers

- Save 15 gallons each time you water (for about 500 square feet landscape area)

Add two to three inches of mulch around trees and plants to reduce evaporation

- Save 30 gallons each time you water per 1,000 square feet

Quickly repair leaks and broken sprinkler heads

- Save 20 gallons per day per leak

Water your yard early in the morning or later at night

- Save 50 gallons each time you water

Plant low-water use trees and plants

- Save 9 gallons per day, per 1,000 square feet

Reduce each irrigation cycle by two minutes (five stations, watering three times weekly) or eliminate one cycle per week

- Save 80 gallons per day

Install a Water-Sense labeled, "Smart" irrigation controller that adjusts watering based upon weather, soil type, sun exposure (for example, full sun or part shade) and plant type

- Save 100 to 150 gallons per day