

Outdoor Water Savings Tips

Hoses

Check hose and connectors. Repair or replace leaky parts or sections. Use a nozzle which can be shut off or adjusted to fine spray. When finished, shut off at the house instead of at nozzle to avoid leaks. Consider a water-saving drip irrigation system which provides a slow steady supply of water to garden and shrubbery.

Lawn & Garden

Water slowly and thoroughly during cool, windless hours, as infrequently as possible. Let grass grow taller in hot weather. Use mulch in the garden and around shrubs to save moisture. Plant native and other shrubs that don't need a lot of watering. Consider alternatives to big thirsty lawns.

Car

Rinse car once, wash from bucket of soapy water, rinse quickly again. Used water is fine for chrome, hub caps, wheels.

Driveways & Walkways

Use a broom or rake instead of water to remove leaves, clippings, debris.

Pool

Keep level low to minimize splashing. Use a cover to slow evaporation (keeps water cleaner, too). Check walls, filtration systems, inlets; repair where needed.

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Water Conservation...Begins at home.

Wild Wings County Service Area



Guide to Water Conservation



WATER CONSERVATION TIPS



Landscape Maintenance

- Check your irrigation system every couple of weeks for broken or misaligned sprinkler heads and drip emitters. Check lawn sprinklers for damage after mowing. This can save a significant amount of water and keep your landscape looking great!
- Aerate your lawn. Aerating is the process of removing soil plugs from your lawn, which allows water and oxygen to get to the roots. Aerate your lawn in fall or spring.
- Use a mulching mower. Mulching mowers chop up the grass blades and return them to the soil. This adds nutrients (nitrogen) back into the soil and results in a healthier lawn. Also, remember to keep your lawn mower blades sharp. A dull blade will shred the tips of the grass blades and result in a browner looking lawn.
- Keep your family and pets safe and your neighborhood creeks free from pesticides. Before you use any pesticide, look for non-toxic alternatives.
- Remember to weed your lawn and garden regularly. Weeds compete with other plants for nutrients, light and water.

Household Water Savings Tips

Bathroom Tips:

Toilet

Check overflow pipes to be sure that water isn't draining. Simply add dark food coloring to TANK water. DON'T FLUSH! Check water in TOILET BOWL 15-20 minutes later. Color in the toilet bowl means you could have a leak.

Sinks

Install water saving devices. Try a faucet aerator to reduce amount of water used.

Tub or Shower

Install water-saving devices. Use a low-flow shower head, flow restrictor or cut off valve (lets you shut off water at shower head while soaping up and shampooing without changing the faucet setting)

Kitchen Tips:

Dishwasher

Economize. Do only full loads. Avoid using extra cycles. Choose a water-saving model.

Hand Washing Dishes

Scrape dishes, but don't pre-rinse. Soak pots and pans before washing. Instead of running water continuously,

Household Water Savings Tips

Food Preparation

Use a brush and bowl full of water to wash vegetables. Thaw frozen food in your refrigerator, not under running water. Cook vegetables with a minimum amount of water and save cooking water for soup stock.

Drinking Water

Instead of cooling water by running, keep a container of cold water in the refrigerator. Make only the amount of coffee, tea, etc. you expect to consume.

Clothes Washer

Use the load selector to match water level to size of load. (If no selector then only do full loads.) Presoak heavily soiled items. Always use minimum amount of detergent. If buying a new washer, purchase one with conservation features. Choose a washer with load size selector or variable water level control.

