
VOLUNTARY CONSERVATION

OUTDOOR RESIDENTIAL USE

Conservation for Normal Conditions and Voluntary Conservation Phase

Lawns

- Water before 10 am to prevent evaporation which occurs during the hottest part of the day. Morning is better than evening, when the dampness encourages growth of fungus.
 - Water only when lawn shows signs of wilt. Grass that springs back when stepped on does not need water.
 - Water thoroughly, not frequently: Long enough to soak roots. A light sprinkling evaporates quickly and encourages shallow root systems. Water slowly to avoid runoff.
 - Don't let the sprinkler run any longer than necessary. In an hour, 600 gallons can be wasted.
 - Allow maximum of one inch of water per week on your lawn. To measure, place cake tins outside to collect rain and water from sprinklers.
 - Use pistol grip nozzles on hoses to avoid waste when watering flowers and shrubs.
 - Aerate lawns by punching holes 6 inches apart. This allows water to reach roots rather than run off surfaces.
 - Position sprinklers to water the lawn, not the pavement.
 - Avoid watering on windy days when the wind not only blows water off target, but also causes excess evaporation.
- (1)
- Keep sprinkler heads clean to prevent uneven watering.

- Adjust hose to simulate a gentle rain. Sprinklers that produce a fine mist waste water through evaporation.
- Know how to turn off an automatic sprinkler system in case of rain.
- Use an alarm clock or stove timer to remind you to shut off sprinklers that don't have timers.

Vegetables and Flower Gardens

- Water deeply, slowly and weekly. Most vegetables require moisture to a depth of 6 to 8 inches.
- Keep soil loose so water can penetrate easily.
- Keep weeds out to reduce competition for water.
- Put the water where you want it and avoid evaporation by using soil soakers or slow running hoses, not sprinklers.

Trees and Shrubs

- Water deeply using a soil-soaker or drip-irrigation.
- Water only when needed. Check the depth of soil dryness by digging with a trowel.
- Mulch to reduce evaporation. A 2 "to 3" layer of wood chips, pine needles, grass clippings or straw keeps the soil cool in summer.
- Dig troughs around plants to catch and retain water.
- Water trees growing in full sun more often than those in shade.
- Do not use sprinklers. Apply water directly at base.
- Do not fertilize during the summer. Fertilizing increases a plant's need for water. (2)
- Install trickle-drip irrigation systems close to the roots of your plants. By dripping water slowly, the system doesn't spray water in to the air. Use soil probes for large trees.
- Water when cloudy, at night, or even when a light rain is falling.

OUTDOOR RESIDENTIAL USE

Conservation for Voluntary Conservation Phase (In addition to measures listed above).

- Do not allow children to play with hose or sprinklers.
- Limit car washing.
- Be ready to catch rainfall that occurs. Place containers under drain spouts.
- Use leftover household water if available.
- Consider delaying the seeding or sodding of new lawns.
- Determine the amount of water being used outdoors by comparing water bills for summer and winter.

Conservation for Mandatory Conservation Phase (In addition to measures listed above).

- Vegetable gardens and food trees should be given minimal amounts of water on an individual basis only.
- Do not water lawns and inedible plants.
- Do not use sprinklers.

Most outdoor watering is prohibited under Emergency Conservation conditions.

(3)