

Household Conservation Tips - Outdoor

- Use a pool cover – Reduces evaporation when swimming pools are not in use.
- Turn off ornamental fountains or other such structures, unless the water is recycled.
- Water the lawn at night or in the early morning to avoid evaporation.
- Mow lawns to two inches or more and leave the clippings. It will shade roots, provide nutrients and help retain moisture. Keep mower blades sharp to reduce water loss.
- Raise the lawn mower blade to at least three inches or to its highest level. A higher cut encourages grass roots to grow deeper, shades the root system, and holds soil moisture better than a closely clipped lawn.
- Mulching around plants and shrubbery reduces evaporation and helps control weeds that compete with landscape plants for water.
- Water slowly, deeply, thoroughly and infrequently to encourage root growth. Water deeply with a soil-soaker or drip irrigation
- Water only when landscaping needs it. As a general rule, lawns only need one inch of water per week, less in the winter.
- Water trees and shrubs separately. Some only need to be watered once a month.
- Use a shut-off nozzle on hoses, which can be adjusted down to a fine spray so that water flows only as needed. When finished, turn it off at the faucet instead of at the nozzle to avoid leaks.
- Avoid over fertilizing lawns. Fertilizer applications increase the need for water. Apply fertilizers that contain slow-release, water-insoluble forms of nitrogen.
- Aerate regularly and use mulch to reduce evaporation.
- Plant native or drought-tolerant grass and plants.
- Check sprinkler systems for leaks. Avoid watering walks, driveways, or the street.
- Use a bucket to wash cars instead of a hose. Consider using a commercial car wash that recycles water.
- Place rain barrels under gutter downspouts. They can collect rainwater for plants, car washing or general cleaning projects.