



OUTDOOR CONSERVATION TIPS

Did you know that outdoor water consumption typically accounts for at least 50% of residential water use? Try following these simple steps to conserve water outdoors:

Water Usage and Timing

- Limit watering to two days per week for no more than 15 minutes per day per station. Water between 8:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. This helps reduce evaporation and allows soil and plants to absorb water over a longer period of time.
- Water only when needed. Step on your lawn; if the grass springs back up when you remove pressure, it probably doesn't need watering.
- Reduce watering needs by planting drought-tolerant species appropriate for our dry climate.
- Limit filling decorative fountains, ornamental lakes or ponds to no more than one foot, except if needed to sustain aquatic life.
- Wash cars at a commercial car wash that utilizes recirculated water.
- Sweep sidewalks, driveways, walkways, decks, patios, etc., instead of using water.
- Save money with rebates for removing grass, installing drip irrigation, upgrading your irrigation equipment and more at watersavings.org. Learn more about available rebates at valleywater.org.

Watering Tips

Timed sprinklers are a great option for watering lawns, but they often apply water more quickly than can be absorbed by the soil.

- Look at smart irrigation controllers that water only when needed based on soil moisture. Some connect to your phone via an app!
- Change your watering schedule to water for several short watering cycles. Water for three 5-minute cycles instead of one 15 minute cycle.

When it comes to watering specific plants:

- A custom laid drip irrigation hose that snakes its way near each plant can be effective.
- Group plants that require similar watering schedules together so it's easier to arrange your drip system and schedule watering.

Maintain your Irrigation System

- It's common for nozzles and irrigation lines to break. Be aware of soggy areas on the ground that could indicate a broken/leaking line or nozzle that is applying too much water.
- Make sure sprinklers are not watering sidewalks, walkways or buildings.
- Plants can also grow around sprinklers and block the flow of water, making it necessary to trim the plant or adjust the nozzle.



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