

WATER TIPS

CONSERVATION TIPS FROM:
The Ministry of Water Land and
Air Protection

Water Conservation is everyone's business

Be aware of and follow all water conservation and water shortage rules in effect in your community. Don't assume - even if you use a private well - that you need not observe good water use rules. Every drop counts.

In the garden...

Water the lawn only when needed

Step on the grass; if it springs back up when you move your foot, it does not need water.

Don't water the pavement

Position sprinklers so that water lands on the lawn or garden, not in areas where it is not needed. Also avoid watering when it is windy. Wind causes water to evaporate quickly and blows water onto areas where it is not needed.

Water without waste

Interrupt watering when puddles or runoff occur. This allows the water to penetrate into the soil before resuming irrigation.

Plant drought resistant trees and plants

Landscape with plants that require less water. Rocks, gravel, benches, and deck areas can all be used to creatively decorate the yard.

Put a layer of mulch around trees & plants

Using a layer of mulch around plants reduces evaporation and promotes plant growth. Water retaining basins also allow water to be concentrated around the plants

Consider drip irrigation systems around trees and shrubs

Drip systems permit water to flow slowly to roots, cut down evaporation and encouraging strong root systems.

Keep lawn free of weeds

Weeds are water thieves and will rob your plants of water and nutrients.

Accept a less than lush lawn

Grass will naturally go dormant during periods of drought, but will readily regenerate when water becomes available.

Match fertilizer to the plant requirement

Fertilizer applications require additional water. Excess fertilizer stimulates top growth, often to the detriment of the root system.

Mow as infrequently as possible

Mowing puts the grass under additional stress that requires more water and aerate your lawn to allow better absorption of water.

Mow higher than normal

Longer leaf surfaces promote deeper rooting and shade the root zone. Never remove more than 1/3 of the leaf blade in one mowing. Return mulched clippings to the lawn.

Use a broom to clean pavement

Sweeping the driveway and sidewalk will get them clean enough without wasting gallons of water.

Don't run water while washing the car

Get the car wet, then turn off the water while you soap the car down using a bucket of soapy water. Drive your car onto a lawn to wash it. Rinse water can help water the grass.

Don't use the sprinklers just to for play

Running through water from a hose or sprinkler is fun but wastes gallons of water.

Check for leaks in pipes and hoses

All leaks cause water to be wasted. Repair or replace any equipment leaking water.

Cover your swimming pool

Covering a swimming pool will help reduce evaporation. An average sized pool can use nearly 4,000 litres of water a month if left uncovered. A pool cover can cut the loss by up to 90%.

Use shut-off nozzles on hoses

Shut-off nozzles completely turn off the water when you are not using it.

Catch rain water

Capture rainwater off the roof for use in your garden.