

Outdoor Water Conservation Tips

There are many ways to reduce water use in the summer. Try these water-saving tips:

Have good watering practices:

- Follow the [voluntary summer watering schedule](#). Bellingham residents are asked to limit watering from June 1 to September 15 annually to reduce stress on the City's drinking water supply.
- Avoid over-watering. The average lawn requires only one inch of water per week to stay green. Use a rain gauge (which you can get by completing this pledge) to help you measure your water use. Hose timers and automatic shutoff nozzles also reduce wasted water.
 - Place a series of shallow containers or a rain gauge (which you can get by taking our [Outdoor Water Conservation pledge](#)) throughout your lawn. Turn the sprinklers on and water your grass. When you're finished, measure the water in the dishes or rain gauge. Adjust the time until the water is about one inch deep.
- Water at the right time. Water your lawn and plants in the mornings between 7-10am to reduce evaporation loss.
- Mow your lawn with blades set high; grass that is 2" to 3" tall promotes a healthier root system and helps retain soil moisture.

Spruce up your sprinkler system:

- Inspect your system annually for needed repairs. See if you qualify for an [irrigation controller rebate](#).
- Or, replace your sprinkler system with a drip irrigation system or hand watering to save more water.

Use water-smart landscaping:

- Apply mulch to reduce evaporation, inhibit weed growth, moderate soil temperature and prevent erosion.
- Consider replacing your lawn with native and drought-tolerant plants, which require less water. Group plants according to their water needs. Consider replacing lawn with native plants to use less water, fewer chemicals, and eliminate mowing.
- Consider letting your grass go dormant during the summer. Though your lawn will turn golden brown without added water, it will green up when the rain returns in the fall.

Use low-impact car washing practices:

- Use a commercial car wash to wash your car. They use water more efficiently by treating and reusing it. Their wash water goes to the sewer for treatment - never down storm drains and directly into creeks or Bellingham Bay.
- Use best practices if washing your car at home. Install a low-flow nozzle with automatic shut-off on your hose; use a bucket of water and only use the hose for quick rinses; ensure wash water soaks into the ground and does not run off.

SAVE OUR WATER.

