

## Outdoor Water Efficiency Practices

Many water conservation methods can be accomplished by modifying just a few everyday habits and using inexpensive upgrades to technologies in your home landscape.

### Landscape Watering:

- Water your landscape early in the morning (before 10:00am) or late in the evening (after 6:00pm). If you water in the heat of the day, most of your water is lost to evaporation.
- Do not over water your lawn. During the summer months, only apply one inch of water on your lawn every 7 days. Doing this, will encourage a deep root system and a healthier lawn. Also, during the winter months reduce your watering frequency to once every 15 to 20 days.
- Remember, rain water counts. If it rains, you do not have to water your lawn. To better track rainfall, buy a rain gauge.
- Water your landscape by hand or run sprinklers in manual mode.
- If you have an automatic sprinkler system, adjust the heads to water the landscape and not the pavement, and be sure to check your system regularly for leaks or misdirected spray heads.
- Install and maintain rain/freeze sensors.
- If possible, replace overhead sprayers with soaker hoses or drip irrigation.

### Landscaping:

- Use native and adapted plants that are more suited to the climate in which we live. Native Plants use less water, fertilizer, and pesticides.
- To water shrub beds, ground cover gardens and trees use a drip irrigation system and soaker hoses that apply water to the roots where it does the most good.
- To hold moisture and limit weed growth, keep a 3 to 4 inch layer of organic mulch on flower beds, around trees, shrubs and ground covers.
- Plant during the fall or early spring when water requirements are lowest.
- Taller grass blades holds moisture and slows down evaporation so cut your grass at a higher setting and leave the clippings on the ground, as they will return nutrients to the soil.
- Before fertilizing your lawn, conduct a soil test. The wrong amount and type of fertilizer can increase water usage.

### Pool:

- Install a pool cover to reduce evaporation.
- Fill your pool manually.

### Cleaning:

- Sweep your sidewalk or driveway, do not hose it down.
- Wash your car on the lawn and use a bucket instead of a hose, or better yet, use a commercial car wash that uses recycled water.
- Bathe your pets outdoors in an area that needs to be watered.