

Use Water Wisely...

Learn How Much is Enough

Depending on the weather, it's generally better to water about once a week and provide 1 inch to 1 1/2 inches of water. (If it's hot, you might have to water more often.)

Water early in the morning before 10:00 a.m. Watering in the heat of the day allows the water to evaporate and watering late in the day may promote fungus and other lawn diseases.

Time how long it takes to apply one inch of water by placing a flat-bottomed can about 6-ft. away from the sprinkler. Turn the water on and time how long it takes to fill the can with one inch of water. For the next watering, set a timer as a reminder to turn off or move the sprinkler.

Don't over water. Puddles of water and runoff definitely indicate too much water.



Puddles may also indicate your soil isn't able to absorb enough water and needs conditioning. Thatch and aerate the soil. To do any good, the water must be able to penetrate the soil.

You can put off watering another day if there is heavy dew on the grass.

Try Other Ways to Save Water Outdoors

- When you wash your car, use a bucket, sponge, and shut-off nozzle on the hose.
- Sweep sidewalks, driveways and patios instead of hosing.
- Restrict play in the sprinklers to when the lawn needs watering.
- Clean gutters and downspouts manually, without using a hose.

*Water Conservation -
Making the most efficient use
of the state's most precious
natural resource.*

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Water Conservation

Outdoor Water Use

A GUIDE TO WATER CONSERVATION



Use Water Wisely...

In the summer each of us uses about 250 gallons of water a day—that's more than twice what we use in the winter. And research suggests much of that extra use is simply wasted.

Nobody has enough water to waste. Please use what you need, but don't waste it.

Water conservation is not just for emergencies. Water conservation today saves you money on your next water bill, reduces the cost for developing new supplies, and leaves more water in the rivers for fish and recreation.

Even if you're not connected to public water and sewer services, conservation is a good idea. You'll save money on

water pumping and heating, extend the life of your well and septic system, and avoid depleting groundwater supplies.

This pamphlet provides a few tips on outdoor water use. For more information, please contact your local water utility, Extension agent or the Oregon Water Resources Department.



Choose the Right Plants

When landscaping, buy plants that are low water-users. A good nursery will be able to advise you.

Consider replacing turf with ground covers such as junipers or heathers.

Group high-water use plants and water them together by area.

Use the Right Equipment

A good stationary sprinkler or soil soaker will water a large area evenly. Avoid oscillating sprinklers since they tend to over-water at the ends when they reverse direction.

Check hoses for leaks and replace washers in hose connectors. Leaks will cost you more money and distribute water unevenly.

Use a hand-held sprayer to water shrubs and special plantings so you can control where the water goes.

Take Care of Your Lawn

Keep your lawn in good shape. Keep weeds down. They rob your lawn and plants of nutrients and water.

Mow your lawn regularly to the height recommended for the type of grass you have. Leave the clippings on the lawn as mulch if they aren't thick and matted.

Start a new lawn in early fall to take advantage of autumn rains and moderate temperatures.

Maintain Planted Beds

Cultivate the soil regularly so water can penetrate and develop a good root system.

Use mulch in rows and around plants to retain moisture.

Keep weeds down so they don't compete for water and nutrients.

Consider using a soaker hose or drip irrigation system instead of a sprinkler if your garden is large. These methods also help prevent evaporation of water from leaves and upper parts of plants.



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