

WATER CONSERVATION TIPS!

COMMERCIAL CONSERVATION

Using Water Efficiently: Ideas for Commercial Businesses

Please note that these suggested measures are not intended to supersede more stringent state, Tribal, or local health and safety regulations.

General:

- Designate a water efficiency coordinator.
- Develop a mission statement and a plan.
- Educate and involve employees in water efficiency efforts.

Equipment:

- Install ultra-low flow toilets, or adjust flush valves or install dams on existing toilets.
- Install faucet aerators and high efficiency shower heads.
- Use water-conserving ice makers.
- As appliances and equipment wear out, replace them with water-saving models.
- Eliminate "once-through" cooling of equipment with municipal water by recycling water flow to cooling tower or replacing with air-cooled equipment.

Practices:

- Detect and repair all leaks.
- Minimize the water used in cooling equipment in accordance with manufacturers recommendations. Shut off cooling units when not needed.

Kitchens and Laundries:

- Turn off dishwashers when not in use. Wash full loads only.
- Scrape rather than rinse dishes before washing.
- Use water from steam tables to wash down cooking areas.
- Do not use running water to melt ice or frozen foods.
- Handle waste materials in a dry state whenever possible.
- Wash only full loads of laundry or select the appropriate washing cycle provided on the washing machine. Use a rinse water recycle system. Consider purchasing high efficiency equipment.

Outside:

- Wash vehicles less often; use a commercial car wash that recycles water.
- If you have a swimming pool, consider a new water-saving pool filter.

- Lower pool water level to reduce amount of water splashed out.
- Use pool filter backwash for landscape irrigation.
- Use a pool cover to reduce evaporation when pool is not being used.
- Sweep or blow paved areas to clean, rather than hosing off.

RESIDENTIAL CONSERVATION TIPS

Using Water Efficiently: Ideas for Residences

Efficient water use can have major environmental, public health, and economic benefits by helping to improve water quality, maintain aquatic ecosystems, and protect drinking water resources. By using water more efficiently and by purchasing more water efficient products, we can also help mitigate the effects of drought. Efficiency measures can also save the homeowner money on their water and energy bills. This list of measures is not meant to be comprehensive, but rather a starting point.

Bathroom — where over half of all water use inside a house takes place:

- Do not let the water run while shaving or brushing teeth.
- Take short showers instead of tub baths. Turn off the water while soaping or shampooing.
- If you must use a tub, close the drain before turning on the water and fill the tub only half full. Bathe small children together.
- Never use your toilet as a waste basket.

Kitchen and Laundry — simple practices that save a lot of water:

- Keep drinking water in the refrigerator instead of letting the faucet run until the water is cool.
- Wash fruits and vegetables in a basin. Use a vegetable brush.
- Do not use water to defrost frozen foods; thaw in the refrigerator overnight.
- Scrape, rather than rinse, dishes before loading into the dishwasher; wash only full loads.
- Add food wastes to your compost pile instead of using the garbage disposal.
- Wash only full loads of laundry or use the appropriate water level or load size selection on the washing machine.

Equipment — homes with high-efficiency plumbing fixtures and appliances save about 30% of indoor water use and yield substantial savings on water, sewer, and energy bills:

- Consider purchasing high-efficiency toilets, or place a plastic container filled with water in the tank of your conventional toilet. Be sure it does not interfere with operation of the toilet's flush mechanisms.
- Install low-flow faucet aerators and showerheads.
- Consider purchasing a high efficiency washing machine which can save over 50% in laundry water and energy use.
- Repair all leaks. A leaky toilet can waste 200 gallons per day. To detect leaks in the toilet, add food coloring to the tank water. If the colored water appears in the bowl, the toilet is leaking. Toilet repair advice is available on <www.toiletology.com/index.shtml>

[EXIT Disclaimer](#) .

Landscape Irrigation — depending on climate, up to 75 percent of a home’s total water use during the growing season is for outdoor purposes (During drought conditions outdoor watering restrictions may be imposed, so some of the following tips will not apply.):

- Detect and repair all leaks in irrigation system.
- Use properly treated wastewater for irrigation where available.
- Water the lawn or garden during the coolest part of the day (early morning is best). Do not water on windy days.
- Water trees and shrubs, which have deep root systems, longer and less frequently than shallow-rooted plants that require smaller amounts of water more often. Check with the local extension service for advice on watering needs in your area.
- Set sprinklers to water the lawn or garden only – not the street or sidewalk.
- Use soaker hoses or trickle irrigation systems for trees and shrubs.
- Install moisture sensors on sprinkler systems.
- Use mulch around shrubs and garden plants to reduce evaporation from the soil surface and cut down on weed growth.
- Remove thatch and aerate turf to encourage movement of water to the root zone.
- Raise your lawn mower cutting height – longer grass blades help shade each other, reduce evaporation, and inhibit weed growth.
- Minimize or eliminate fertilizing, which promotes new growth needing additional watering.
- When outdoor use of city or well water is restricted during a drought, use the water from the air conditioning condenser, dehumidifier, bath, or sink on plants or the garden. Don’t use water that contains bleach, automatic-dishwashing detergent or fabric softener.

Other Outdoor Uses:

- Sweep driveways, sidewalks and steps rather than hosing off.
- Wash the car with water from a bucket, or consider using a commercial car wash that recycles water.
- When using a hose, control the flow with an automatic shut-off nozzle.
- Avoid purchasing recreational water toys which require a constant stream of water.
- Consider purchasing a new water-saving swimming pool filter.
- Use a pool cover to reduce evaporation when pool is not being used.
- Do not install or use ornamental water features unless they recycle the water. Use signs to show the public that water is recycled. Do not operate during a drought.

Straight Talk on Water Conservation

As a society, we have become more and more environmentally conscious and better informed about the effect our lifestyles can have on the world around us. Yet, the demand for our most valuable natural resource—drinking water—continues to grow while local supplies can be threatened by drought conditions. Only one percent of the earth’s water is available for human consumption and yet, according to the latest U.S. Geological Survey, the United States uses 408 billion gallons a day. On the industrial level, numerous water-saving technologies have been employed to help conserve water. And while strong progress has been made, there are several simple steps that consumers can take to help preserve our water supply for future generations.

What can you do?

- Water your lawn early in the morning or at night to avoid excess evaporation.
- Do not over water your lawn.
- Use lawn chemicals only when necessary.
- Fully load the dishwasher and clothes washer before running.
- When washing dishes by hand, or when brushing your teeth, do not leave the water running.
- Repair dripping faucets and leaky toilets. Dripping faucets can waste up to 2,000 gallons of water each year in the average home. Leaky toilets can waste as much as 200 gallons per day.
- If you have a swimming pool, use a cover. By so doing, you can cut the loss of water by evaporation by 90 percent.
- Use a broom, rather than a hose, to clean sidewalks or driveways.
- Defrost frozen food in the refrigerator or in a microwave instead of running hot water over the food.
- Do not pour toxic chemicals (such as cleaning products, motor oil, weed-killers, or paints) down the drain. Dispose of them properly.

Together, we share in the benefits of some of the safest drinking water in the world, and it is incumbent upon us all to protect this valuable natural resource for future generations. By making simple changes in our daily routines, we can feel confident that we are doing our part.

Conservation Tips

AWWA recommends the following steps to help conserve water:

- Don't over water your lawn. Only water every three to five days in the summer and 10 to 14 days in the winter.
- To prevent water loss from evaporation, don't water your lawn during the hottest part of the day or when it is windy.
- Only run the dishwasher and clothes washer when they are fully loaded.
- Defrost frozen food in the refrigerator or in the microwave instead of running water over it.
- When washing dishes by hand, use two basins - one for washing and one for rinsing rather than let the water run.
- Use a broom, rather than a hose, to clean sidewalks and driveways.
- If you have a swimming pool, get a cover. You'll cut the loss of water by evaporation by 90 percent.
- Repair dripping faucets and leaky toilets. Dripping faucets can waste about 2,000 gallons of water each year. Leaky toilets can waste as much as 200 gallons each day.

Landscaping Tips

- Maintain a lawn height of 2 1/2 to 3 inches to help protect the roots from heat stress and reduce the loss of moisture to evaporation.
- Avoid planting turf in areas that are difficult to irrigate properly such as steep inclines and isolated strips along sidewalks and driveways.
- Aerate clay soils at least once a year to help the soil retain moisture.
- Promote deep root growth through a combination of proper watering, aerating, appropriate fertilization, thatch (grass clippings) control, and attention to lawn height. A lawn with deep roots requires less water and is more resistant to drought and disease.
- Mulch around plants, bushes and trees to help the soil retain moisture, discourage the growth of weeds, and provide essential nutrients.
- Plant in the spring or fall, when watering requirements are lower.
- When choosing plants, keep in mind that smaller ones require less water to become established.
- Collect rain water in a barrel and use it to water your garden (please note, this is not a legal practice in all areas).

- Use porous materials for walkways and patios to keep water in your yard and prevent wasteful runoff.

Xeriscape™: Conservation Landscaping

Xeriscape™ is an increasing trend in landscape design. By combining water conservation practices with creative landscape design, you can create an attractive haven that's relatively hassle-free. 85% of all landscape problems are directly related to over watering. A properly designed and operated irrigation system can reduce water use by 20 percent or more each year.

Grouping plants according to their watering needs saves a substantial amount of water. By using shade, rethinking traditional grass lawns, taking advantage of natural runoff, planting in low irrigation areas, and using mulch, your landscape can be transformed into a beautiful design that conserves water.

The Basics

Xeriscape™ is a method of landscaping that conserves water. It incorporates seven principles including planning and design, soil preparation, use of plants suited to the soil and climate, creating practical turf areas, use of mulches, efficient irrigation, and proper maintenance. You can incorporate the principles of Xeriscape™ and still have a lawn and a beautiful yard. The key is keeping the amount of water thirsty plants and grasses in your landscape to a minimum.

Planning and Design

Plan your landscape such that plants with similar water requirements are clustered together. Designate zones for areas requiring frequent watering, occasional watering, and no watering at all such as decks and patios. Be sure to match plants to yard conditions such as sunny, shady, dry or damp. When creating a landscape plan, take into consideration how the yard will be used and how it can provide the greatest benefit with the least amount of maintenance.

Soil Preparation

Proper soil preparation requires a combination of turning, aerating and enriching the soil with compost or fertilizer. A little extra work in the beginning will pay off with healthier plants that require less water to stay healthy.

Plant Selection

There are many resources available that will help you choose plants appropriate for your region that match your needs and tastes. See the resources listed below, visit your local library or nursery, or contact your local utility for more information.

Creating Practical Turf Areas

The type and location of turf areas should be incorporated into your overall landscape plan. Match turf areas to their intended use, as well as topographical and soil conditions. For example, avoid using turf as a "fill in" material and placing turf in areas that are difficult to irrigate properly such as steep inclines and isolated strips along sidewalks and driveways.

Use of Mulches

Mulches applied around planting beds aid in moisture retention, discourage weed growth, and provide essential nutrients as they decay. Mulches can also be used in areas not appropriate for planting. Materials can include bark, wood chips, pine straw, nut shells, gravel, crushed stone, or landscape clippings.

Efficient Irrigation

Efficient irrigation means applying water in the proper amount and only when necessary. Understand the different water requirements of the "zones" in your landscape, and check automatic sprinkler or drip irrigation systems periodically to ensure

plants are receiving the water they need without being overwatered. Proper irrigation will not only conserve water but promote deeper root growth resulting in a healthier, more drought tolerant landscape.

Proper Maintenance

Regular maintenance will not only preserve the beauty of your landscape but will keep it healthy. Maintenance needs of a carefully planned Xeriscape™ should decrease over time as plantings mature. By following the seven principles your landscape will require less watering, mowing, fertilizer and other chemicals to keep it looking great.

- #1. There are a number of ways to save water, and they all start with you.
- #2. When washing dishes by hand, don't let the water run while rinsing. Fill one sink with wash water and the other with rinse water.
- #3. Evaporative coolers require a seasonal maintenance checkup. For more efficient cooling, check your evaporative cooler annually.
- #4. Check your sprinkler system frequently and adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk, or street.
- #5. Run your washing machine and dishwasher only when they are full and you could save 1000 gallons a month.
- #6. Avoid planting turf in areas that are hard to water such as steep inclines and isolated strips along sidewalks and driveways.
- #7. Install covers on pools and spas and check for leaks around your pumps.
- #8. Use the garbage disposal sparingly. Compost instead and save gallons every time.
- #9. Plant during the spring or fall when the watering requirements are lower.
- #10. Keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator instead of running the tap for cold drinks, so that every drop goes down you not the drain.
- #11. Check your water meter and bill to track your water usage.
- #12. Minimize evaporation by watering during the early morning hours, when temperatures are cooler and winds are lighter.
- #13. Wash your produce in the sink or a pan that is partially filled with water instead of running water from the tap.
- #14. Use a layer of organic mulch around plants to reduce evaporation and save hundreds of gallons of water a year.
- #15. Use a broom instead of a hose to clean your driveway or sidewalk and save 80 gallons of water every time.
- #16. If your shower can fill a one-gallon bucket in less than 20 seconds, then replace it with

a water-efficient showerhead.

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- #17. Collect the water you use for rinsing produce and reuse it to water houseplants.
- #18. Divide your watering cycle into shorter periods to reduce runoff and allow for better absorption every time you water.
- #19. We're more likely to notice leaky faucets indoors, but don't forget to check outdoor faucets, pipes, and hoses for leaks.
- #20. Periodically check your pool for leaks if you have an automatic refilling device.
- #21. Only water your lawn when needed. You can tell this by simply walking across your lawn. If you leave footprints, it's time to water.
- #22. When you shop for a new appliance, consider one offering cycle and load size adjustments. They are more water and energy-efficient than older appliances.
- #23. Time your shower to keep it under 5 minutes. You'll save up to 1000 gallons a month.
- #24. Install low-volume toilets.
- #25. Adjust your lawn mower to a higher setting. Longer grass shades root systems and holds soil moisture better than a closely clipped lawn.
- #26. When you clean your fish tank, use the water you've drained on your plants. The water is rich in nitrogen and phosphorus, providing you with a free and effective fertilizer.
- #27. Use the sprinkler for larger areas of grass. Water small patches by hand to avoid waste.
- #28. Put food coloring in your toilet tank. If it seeps into the toilet bowl, you have a leak. It's easy to fix, and you can save more than 600 gallons a month.
- #29. Plug the bathtub before turning the water on, then adjust the temperature as the tub fills up.
- #30. Use porous materials for walkways and patios to keep water in your yard and prevent wasteful runoff.
- #31. Direct downspouts and other runoff towards shrubs and trees, or collect and use for your garden.
- #32. Designate one glass for your drinking water each day. This will cut down on the number of times you run your dishwasher.
- #33. Water your summer lawns once every three days and your winter lawn once every five days.
- #34. Install a rain shut-off device on your automatic sprinklers to eliminate unnecessary watering.

- #35.** Don't use running water to thaw food.
- #36.** Choose a water-efficient drip irrigation system for trees, shrubs and flowers. Watering at the roots is very effective, be careful not to over water.
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- #37.** Grab a wrench and fix that leaky faucet. It's simple, inexpensive, and can save 140 gallons a week.
- #38.** Reduce the amount of grass in your yard by planting shrubs, and ground cover with rock and granite mulching.
- #39.** When doing laundry, match the water level to the size of the load.
- #40.** Teach your children to turn the faucets off tightly after each use.
- #41.** Remember to check your sprinkler system valves periodically for leaks and keep the heads in good shape.
- #42.** Before you lather up, install a low-flow showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save your family more than 500 gallons a week.
- #43.** Soak your pots and pans instead of letting the water run while you scrape them clean.
- #44.** Don't water your lawn on windy days. After all, sidewalks and driveways don't need water.
- #45.** Water your plants deeply but less frequently to create healthier and stronger landscapes.
- #46.** Make sure you know where your master water shut-off valve is located. This could save gallons of water and damage to your home if a pipe were to burst.
- #47.** When watering grass on steep slopes, use a soaker hose to prevent wasteful runoff.
- #48.** Group plants with the same watering needs together to get the most out of your watering time.
- #49.** Remember to weed your lawn and garden regularly. Weeds compete with other plants for nutrients, light, and water.
- #50.** While fertilizers promote plant growth, they also increase water consumption. Apply the minimum amount of fertilizer needed.
- #51.** Avoid installing ornamental water features and fountains that spray water into the air. Trickling or cascading fountains lose less water to evaporation.
- #52.** Use a commercial car wash that recycles water.
- #53.** Don't buy recreational water toys that require a constant flow of water.
- #54.** Turn off the water while you brush your teeth and save 4 gallons a minute. That's 200

gallons a week for a family of four.

- #55. Buy a rain gauge to track how much rain or irrigation your yard receives. Check with your local water agency to see how much rain is needed to skip an irrigation cycle.
 - #56. Encourage your school system and local government to help develop and promote a water conservation ethic among children and adults.
 - #57. Teach your family how to shut off your automatic watering systems. Turn sprinklers off if the system is malfunctioning or when a storm is approaching.
 - #58. Set a kitchen timer when watering your lawn or garden with a hose.
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- #59. Make sure your toilet flapper doesn't stick open after flushing.
 - #60. Make sure there are aerators on all of your faucets.
 - #61. Next time you add or replace a flower or shrub, choose a low water use plant for year-round landscape color and save up to 550 gallons each year.
 - #62. Install an instant water heater on your kitchen sink so you don't have to let the water run while it heats up. This will also reduce heating costs for your household.
 - #63. Use a grease pencil to mark the water level of your pool at the skimmer. Check the mark 24 hours later. Your pool should lose no more than 1/4 inch each day.
 - #64. Cut back on rinsing if your dishwasher is new. Newer models clean more thoroughly than older ones.
 - #65. Use a screwdriver as a soil probe to test soil moisture. If it goes in easily, don't water. Proper lawn watering can save thousands of gallons of water annually.
 - #66. Avoid overseeding your lawn with winter grass. Once established, ryegrass needs water every three to five days, whereas dormant Bermuda grass needs water only once a month.
 - #67. Do one thing each day that will save water. Even if savings are small, every drop counts.
 - #68. When the kids want to cool off, use the sprinkler in an area where your lawn needs it the most.
 - #69. Make sure your swimming pools, fountains, and ponds are equipped with recirculating pumps.
 - #70. Bathe your young children together.
 - #71. Landscape with Xeriscape trees, plants and groundcovers. Call your local conservation office for more information about these water thrifty plants.
 - #72. Winterize outdoor spigots when temps dip to 20 degrees F to prevent pipes from bursting or freezing.

- #73. Insulate hot water pipes so you don't have to run as much water to get hot water to the faucet.
 - #74. Wash your car on the grass. This will water your lawn at the same time.
 - #75. Drop that tissue in the trash instead of flushing it and save gallons every time.
 - #76. If you have an evaporative cooler, direct the water drain to a flowerbed, tree, or your lawn.
 - #77. Make suggestions to your employer to save water (and dollars) at work.
 - #78. Support projects that use reclaimed wastewater for irrigation and other uses.
 - #79. Use a hose nozzle and turn off the water while you wash your car and save more than 100 gallons.
 - #80. Encourage your friends and neighbors to be part of a water-conscious community.
 - #81. If your toilet was installed prior to 1980, place a toilet dam or bottle filled with water in your toilet tank to cut down on the amount of water used for each flush. Be sure these devices do not interfere with operating parts.
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- #82. Install water softening systems only when necessary. Save water and salt by running the minimum number of regenerations necessary to maintain water softness.
 - #83. Wash clothes only when you have a full load and save up to 600 gallons each month.
 - #84. Leave lower branches on trees and shrubs and allow leaf litter to accumulate on top of the soil. This keeps the soil cooler and reduces evaporation.
 - #85. Pick-up the phone and report significant water losses from broken pipes, open hydrants and errant sprinklers to the property owner or your water management district.
 - #86. Bermuda grasses are dormant (brown) in the winter and will only require water once every three to four weeks or less if it rains.
 - #87. Start a compost pile. Using compost when you plant adds water-holding organic matter to the soil.
 - #88. Use sprinklers that throw big drops of water close to the ground. Smaller drops of water and mist often evaporate before they hit the ground.
 - #89. Listen for dripping faucets and toilets that flush themselves. Fixing a leak can save 500 gallons each month.
 - #90. More plants die from over-watering than from under-watering. Be sure only to water plants when necessary.
 - #91. Cook food in as little water as possible. This will also retain more of the nutrients.
 - #92. Adjust your watering schedule to the season. Water your summer lawn every third day and

- your winter lawn every fifth day.
- #93.** Turn the water off while you shampoo and condition your hair and you can save more than 50 gallons a week.
 - #94.** Bathe your pets outdoors in an area in need of water.
 - #95.** Choose new water-saving appliances, like washing machines that save up to 20 gallons per load.
 - #96.** Water only as rapidly as the soil can absorb the water.
 - #97.** Aerate your lawn. Punch holes in your lawn about six inches apart so water will reach the roots rather than run off the surface.
 - #98.** Select the proper size pans for cooking. Large pans require more cooking water than may be necessary.
 - #99.** Place an empty tuna can on your lawn to catch and measure the water output of your sprinklers. For lawn watering advice, contact your local conservation office.
 - #100.** Turn off the water while you shave and you can save more than 100 gallons a week.
 - #101.** When you give your pet fresh water, don't throw the old water down the drain. Use it to water your trees or shrubs.
 - #102.** If you accidentally drop ice cubes when filling your glass from the freezer, don't throw them in the sink. Drop them in a house plant instead.
 - #103.** To save water and time, consider washing your face or brushing your teeth while in the shower.
 - #104.** While staying in a hotel or even at home, consider reusing your towels.
 - #105.** When backwashing your pool, consider using the water on your landscaping.
 - #106.** For hanging baskets, planters and pots, place ice cubes under the moss or dirt to give your plants a cool drink of water and help eliminate water overflow.
 - #107.** Throw trimmings and peelings from fruits and vegetables into your yard compost to prevent from using the garbage disposal.
 - #108.** When you have ice left in your cup from a take-out restaurant, don't throw it in the trash, dump it on a plant.
 - #109.** Have your plumber re-route your gray water to trees and gardens rather than letting it run into the sewer line. Check with your city codes, and if it isn't allowed in your area, start a movement to get that changed.
 - #110.** Keep a bucket in the shower to catch water as it warms up or runs. Use this water to flush toilets or water plants.

#111. When you are washing your hands, don't let the water run while you lather.

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OUTDOOR ONLY

#3. Evaporative coolers require a seasonal maintenance checkup. For more efficient cooling, check your evaporative cooler annually.

#4. Check your sprinkler system frequently and adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk, or street.

#6. Avoid planting turf in areas that are hard to water such as steep inclines and isolated strips along sidewalks and driveways.

#7. Install covers on pools and spas and check for leaks around your pumps.

#9. Plant during the spring or fall when the watering requirements are lower.

#11. Check your water meter and bill to track your water usage.

#12. Minimize evaporation by watering during the early morning hours, when temperatures are cooler and winds are lighter.

#14. Use a layer of organic mulch around plants to reduce evaporation and save hundreds of gallons of water a year.

#15. Use a broom instead of a hose to clean your driveway or sidewalk and save 80 gallons of water every time.

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#19. We're more likely to notice leaky faucets indoors, but don't forget to check outdoor faucets, pipes, and hoses for leaks.

#20. Periodically check your pool for leaks if you have an automatic refilling device.

- #21.** Only water your lawn when needed. You can tell this by simply walking across your lawn. If you leave footprints, it's time to water.
- #25.** Adjust your lawn mower to a higher setting. Longer grass shades root systems and holds soil moisture better than a closely clipped lawn.
- #26.** When you clean your fish tank, use the water you've drained on your plants. The water is rich in nitrogen and phosphorus, providing you with a free and effective fertilizer.
- #27.** Use the sprinkler for larger areas of grass. Water small patches by hand to avoid waste.
- #30.** Use porous materials for walkways and patios to keep water in your yard and prevent wasteful runoff.
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- #36.** Choose a water-efficient drip irrigation system for trees, shrubs and flowers. Watering at the roots is very effective, be careful not to over water.
- #37.** Grab a wrench and fix that leaky faucet. It's simple, inexpensive, and can save 140 gallons a week.
- #38.** Reduce the amount of grass in your yard by planting shrubs, and ground cover with rock and granite mulching.
- #40.** Teach your children to turn the faucets off tightly after each use.
- #41.** Remember to check your sprinkler system valves periodically for leaks and keep the heads in good shape.
- #44.** Don't water your lawn on windy days. After all, sidewalks and driveways don't need water.
- #45.** Water your plants deeply but less frequently to create healthier and stronger landscapes.
- #46.** Make sure you know where your master water shut-off valve is located. This could save gallons of water and damage to your home if a pipe were to burst.
- #47.** When watering grass on steep slopes, use a soaker hose to prevent wasteful runoff.
- #48.** Group plants with the same watering needs together to get the most out of your watering time.
- #49.** Remember to weed your lawn and garden regularly. Weeds compete with other plants for nutrients, light, and water.

- #50.** While fertilizers promote plant growth, they also increase water consumption. Apply the minimum amount of fertilizer needed.
- #51.** Avoid installing ornamental water features and fountains that spray water into the air. Trickling or cascading fountains lose less water to evaporation.
- #52.** Use a commercial car wash that recycles water.
- #53.** Don't buy recreational water toys that require a constant flow of water.
- #55.** Buy a rain gauge to track how much rain or irrigation your yard receives. Check with your local water agency to see how much rain is needed to skip an irrigation cycle.
- #56.** Encourage your school system and local government to help develop and promote a water conservation ethic among children and adults.
- #57.** Teach your family how to shut off your automatic watering systems. Turn sprinklers off if the system is malfunctioning or when a storm is approaching.
- #58.** Set a kitchen timer when watering your lawn or garden with a hose.
- #60.** Make sure there are aerators on all of your faucets.
- #61.** Next time you add or replace a flower or shrub, choose a low water use plant for year-round landscape color and save up to 550 gallons each year.
- #63.** Use a grease pencil to mark the water level of your pool at the skimmer. Check the mark 24 hours later. Your pool should lose no more than 1/4 inch each day.
- #65.** Use a screwdriver as a soil probe to test soil moisture. If it goes in easily, don't water. Proper lawn watering can save thousands of gallons of water annually.
- #66.** Avoid overseeding your lawn with winter grass. Once established, ryegrass needs water every three to five days, whereas dormant Bermuda grass needs water only once a month.
- #67.** Do one thing each day that will save water. Even if savings are small, every drop counts.
- #68.** When the kids want to cool off, use the sprinkler in an area where your lawn needs it the most.
- #69.** Make sure your swimming pools, fountains, and ponds are equipped with recirculating pumps.
- #71.** Landscape with Xeriscape trees, plants and groundcovers. Call your local conservation office for more information about these water thrifty plants.
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- #78.** Support projects that use reclaimed wastewater for irrigation and other uses.
- #79.** Use a hose nozzle and turn off the water while you wash your car and save more than 100 gallons.
- #80.** Encourage your friends and neighbors to be part of a water-conscious community.
- #84.** Leave lower branches on trees and shrubs and allow leaf litter to accumulate on top of the soil. This keeps the soil cooler and reduces evaporation.
- #85.** Pick-up the phone and report significant water losses from broken pipes, open hydrants and errant sprinklers to the property owner or your water management district.
- #86.** Bermuda grasses are dormant (brown) in the winter and will only require water once every three to four weeks or less if it rains.
- #87.** Start a compost pile. Using compost when you plant adds water-holding organic matter to the soil.
- #88.** Use sprinklers that throw big drops of water close to the ground. Smaller drops of water and mist often evaporate before they hit the ground. **#89.** Listen for dripping faucets and toilets that flush themselves. Fixing a leak can save 500 gallons each month.
- #90.** More plants die from over-watering than from under-watering. Be sure only to water plants when necessary.
- #92.** Adjust your watering schedule to the season. Water your summer lawn every third day and your winter lawn every fifth day.
- #94.** Bathe your pets outdoors in an area in need of water.
- #96.** Water only as rapidly as the soil can absorb the water.
- #97.** Aerate your lawn. Punch holes in your lawn about six inches apart so water will reach the roots rather than run off the surface.
- #99.** Place an empty tuna can on your lawn to catch and measure the water output of your sprinklers. For lawn watering advice, contact your local conservation office.
- #101.** When you give your pet fresh water, don't throw the old water down the drain. Use it to water your trees or shrubs.
- #105.** When backwashing your pool, consider using the water on your landscaping.

#106. For hanging baskets, planters and pots, place ice cubes under the moss or dirt to give your plants a cool drink of water and help eliminate water overflow.

#107. Throw trimmings and peelings from fruits and vegetables into your yard compost to prevent from using the garbage disposal.

#109. Have your plumber re-route your gray water to trees and gardens rather than letting it run into the sewer line. Check with your city codes, and if it isn't allowed in your area, start a movement to get that changed.