

SUMMER WATER TIPS

Wondering how to get started to make your yard more water friendly? You don't have to do a major renovation. Here are some ideas that will save water, improve plant/grass health, and reduce run-off.



Sprinklers

- Routinely check for broken, leaking or clogged sprinklers. Use the Irrigation System Checklist to identify problems. (On back)
- Don't use your sprinklers on windy or rainy days and adjust your timers around the seasons.
- Watering less frequently and more thoroughly will save water. Frequent, light sprinkling leads to shallow roots and disease.
- Minimize evaporation by watering your yard in the early morning or late evening when it's cooler.
- Use drip irrigation or low-volume spray heads in planter beds.

Grasses/Plants

- Watering should be scheduled every 2-3 days depending on the soil conditions.
- Group plants that have similar water needs and landscape with drought-tolerant plants.
- Put a layer of mulch around trees and plants to reduce evaporation.
- Use a shutoff nozzle on your hose.



Pools

- Test pool and spa water frequently and maintain appropriate chemical balances to avoid the need to drain it except for structural repairs.
- Cover your swimming pool and/or spa to slow down water evaporation.
- Check your pool and pool plumbing for leaks.

Irrigation System Tune-up Checklist

Check sprinklers in the spring, summer and fall. Turn on each valve and check for the following problems:

Symptoms of Poor Maintenance

- erosion
- water runoff
- swampy areas
- obstructions of spray pattern
- plant material performing poorly
- water spraying on the street or sidewalk

Problems with Sprinkler Heads and Valves

- valve leaking
- head clogged
- head leaking or broken
- plants blocking sprinkler
- rotors or impacts are not rotating
- head pushed too far into the ground
- heads tilted or spraying in wrong direction
- sprinkler spacing not providing head to head coverage on grass

Symptoms of Low Water Pressure

- popup stem not fully extending
- spray is not reaching proper area
- there are doughnut shaped dry areas of grass

Symptoms of High Water Pressure

- pipes keep breaking
- sprinkler nozzles blown off
- spray is misting or fogging
- spray is overshooting desired areas

