



Landscaping and Water - Getting the Most out of Both

Sometimes it's hard to believe with our rainy weather here in the Pacific Northwest, that we need to conserve water. Water consumption skyrockets during the summer months, which in turn, depletes our water resources making water conservation a necessity.

You can help save water and your landscaping at the same time by following these practical guidelines.

1. Best time - Water in the early morning or evening. You lose a lot of water due to evaporation when watering after temperatures have reached their peak.
2. Get a timer - These \$10 items are so handy and help you to not forget that sprinkler running outside when you get busy inside.
3. Use soaker hoses when possible and drip systems in pots.
4. Make sure valves are not leaking outside. Sometimes just slightly tightening can stop the drip at your outside nozzle.
5. Adjust your sprinkler before you turn it on. The street, driveway and sidewalks get plenty of water during the winter months!
6. Use mulch around shrubs and plants to reduce evaporation and cut down on weed growth.
7. Consider installing new landscaping at the end of the season when the weather is cooler and water usage is tapering off.
8. Landscape with grasses, plants and trees that are native to the Pacific Northwest. Group plants together based on similar watering needs.



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Your Guide to Water Conservation

*Every
Drop
Counts!*



**“When the well is dry,
we know the worth of water”
Benjamin Franklin**

Water saving tips for you.....



In the Kitchen.

-  Never run the dishwasher without a full load. This will save water, energy, detergent and money.
-  Fill a pan of water or put a stopper in the sink for washing and rinsing pots, pans, dishes and cooking implements rather than turning on the water faucet each time a rinse is needed.
-  Scrape the dishes clean instead of rinsing them before placing them in the dishwasher.
-  Keep a container of drinking water in the refrigerator. Running water from the tap until it is cool enough to drink is wasteful.
-  Use a small pan of cold water when cleaning vegetables rather than letting the water run over them. Use this to water potted plants.
-  Always keep water conservation in mind. Avoid doing wasteful things like making a huge pot of coffee if you're only going to drink a cup or two.



.....In the Bathroom.

-  When building a new home or remodeling a bathroom, install a new low-volume flush toilet that uses only 1.6 gallons per flush.
-  You save a lot of water by installing low-flow shower heads. Using these low flow devices you can save as much as 5½ gallons of water per minute.
-  Test toilets for leaks. Add a few drops of food coloring to the water in the toilet tank, but do not flush the toilet. Watch to see if the coloring appears in the bowl within a few minutes. If it does, the toilet has a leak that needs to be repaired.
-  In older high-volume flush toilets use some type of toilet tank displacement device to reduce the volume of water in the tank, but still provides enough for flushing. You can find these devices at most home improvement centers.
-  Check faucets for leaks. A slow drip can waste as much as 170 gallons of water each day, or 5000 gallons of water each month. This adds a lot of money to your water bill.



.....In the Laundry.

-  Wash only full loads of clothes when using your washing machine. It can take as much as 59 gallons of water to wash one load of clothes.
-  Pay attention to your load size. Use the lowest possible water level setting on the washing machine according to the amount of clothes being washed.
-  Use cold water whenever possible. This saves energy too, and conserves the hot water for others uses. It's also better for most types of fabrics.
-  When purchasing new appliances, check the requirements of various models and brands. Some use less water than others.
-  If possible, replace old washer and dryers with new energy saving models. You may even be able to receive a tax credit for these purchases.



.....And your Plumbing.

-  Check water line connections and faucets for leaks.
-  Repair leaky faucets promptly. It is easy to do, it costs very little and can make a substantial savings in your water bills.
-  Make sure that the line from the water meter to your house is free of leaks. To check, turn off all indoor and outdoor faucets and water-using appliances. The water meter should be read at 10 to 20 minute intervals. If it continues to run or turn, a leak probably exists and needs to be located and repaired.
-  Some estimate that about 75% of the water used at home is used in the bathroom. Taking a shower instead of a bath will usually save water, and a low-flow shower head may well be the single most effective water conservation measure you can take.

The water we conserve
today can serve us tomorrow.