

# Outdoor Water Conservation

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- #1

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

- #2

*Avoid planting turf in areas that are hard to water such as steep inclines and isolated strips along sidewalks and driveways. These areas are typically higher in overspray and runoff.*

- #3

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

- #4

Use the garbage disposal sparingly. Compost instead and save gallons every time.



- #5

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

- #6

Check your water meter and bill to track your water usage. During the hot months, outdoor irrigation accounts for 50-80% of total water usage.

- #7

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



- #8

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

- #9

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

- #10

*Divide your watering cycle into shorter periods to reduce runoff and allow for better absorption every time you water.*

- **#11**

Check outdoor faucets, pipes, and hoses for leaks. These can really be a problem as they can leak for long periods of time before getting noticed.



- **#12**

Periodically check your pool for leaks if you have an automatic refilling device. It is hard to tell when you have a leak if it is always refilling itself.

- **#13**

*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. If it rebounds, it's OK to wait another day.*

- **#14**

*Adjust your lawn mower to a higher setting. Longer grass shades root systems and holds soil moisture better than a closely clipped lawn.*



- **#15**

*Use a sprinkler system for larger areas of grass. Small patches can be watered by hand to avoid waste.*

- **#16**

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

- **#17**

*Direct downspouts towards shrubs and trees, or collect and use for your garden.*

- **#18**

*Consider using Templeton's Recommended Watering Schedule. If need be, you can then adjust the time up or down from there.*



- **#19**

*Install a rain shut-off device on your automatic sprinklers to eliminate unnecessary watering.*

- **#20**

*Use drip irrigation for flowers, shrubs and trees to apply water directly to the roots where it's needed.*

- **#21**

*Reduce the amount of grass in your yard by planting shrubs and ground cover with rock and granite mulching.*

- **#22**

*Remember to check your sprinkler system valves periodically for leaks and keep the heads in good shape.*



- **#23**

*Don't water your lawn on windy days. After all, sidewalks and driveways don't need water.*

- **#24**

*Water your plants deeply but less frequently to create healthier and stronger landscapes.*

- **#25**

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.

- **#26**

*When watering grass on steep slopes, use a soaker hose to prevent wasteful runoff.*

- **#27**

*Group plants with the same watering needs together to get the most out of your watering time.*

- **#28**

*Remember to weed your lawn and garden regularly. Weeds compete with other plants for nutrients, light, and water.*

- **#29**

*While fertilizers promote plant growth, they also increase water consumption. Apply the minimum amount of fertilizer needed. Consider using organic fertilizer as it is less likely to harm our water supply.*

- **#30**

Avoid installing ornamental water features and fountains that spray water into the air. Trickling or cascading fountains lose less water to evaporation.

- **#31**

Use a commercial car wash that recycles water.

- **#32**

Don't buy recreational water toys that require a constant flow of water.

- **#33**

Buy a rain gauge to track how much rain or irrigation your yard receives.

- **#34**

*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.*

- **#35**

Set a kitchen timer when watering your lawn or garden with a hose.



- **#36**

*Next time you add or replace a flower or shrub, choose a drought-tolerant or native plant for year-round landscape color and save up to 550 gallons each year.*

- **#37**

*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.*

- **#38**

Make sure your swimming pools, fountains, and ponds are equipped with recirculation pumps.

- **#39**

*Landscape with drought-tolerant or native trees, plants and groundcovers. Call the TCSD office for information about these water thrifty plants.*

- **#40**

Winterize outdoor spigots when temps dip to 20 degrees F to prevent pipes from bursting or freezing.

- **#41**

Install automatic shut-off nozzles on all hoses.



- **#42**

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.

- **#43**

Report significant water losses from broken pipes, open hydrants and errant sprinklers to the property owner or the TCSD office.

- **#44**

*Bermuda grasses are dormant (brown) in the winter and will only require water once every three to four weeks or less if it rains.*

- **#45**

*Start a compost pile. Using compost when you plant adds water-holding organic matter to the soil.*

- **#46**

*More plants die from over-watering than from under-watering. Be sure only to water plants when necessary.*

- **#47**

*Adjust your watering schedule each month to match seasonal weather conditions and landscape requirements.*

- **#48**

Bathe your pets outdoors in an area in need of water.



- **#49**

*Water only as rapidly as the soil can absorb the water.*

- **#50**

*Aerate your lawn to break up compaction and to allow for better absorption.*

- **#51**

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.