

# WATER CONSERVATION

## Outdoor

With water conservation efforts under way in parts of Oklahoma, here are some water conservation tips from the Department of Environmental Quality.

Water piped for residential use often goes toward the care of lawns and gardens. As more water is used outdoors, more water is wasted. Yet it is possible to conserve water and still maintain a healthy lawn.



### Outdoor Tips

- Check for leaks in outdoor faucets, pipes and hoses. Even slight drips can add up to many gallons of wasted water.
- Water your lawn only when it needs it. A good way to see if your lawn needs watering is to step on the grass. If it springs back up when you move, it doesn't need water. If it stays flat, it needs water.
- Avoid watering on windy days. Wind will carry water away from its intended area. Water during the coolest part of the day, generally early morning, to avoid excess evaporation and to help prevent the growth of fungus.
- Most homeowners do not water their lawns properly. The most common mistake is to water too often, which wastes water and causes turf to develop shallow roots, making it a prime target for insects, diseases and temperature extremes. Proper watering results in a deeply rooted turf that is more drought tolerant and better able to utilize available soil moisture. It is better to water once every 5-7 days wetting the soil to a depth of 6 to 10 inches. This takes 1/2 to 1 inch of water.
- Don't water the street. Position your sprinklers so water lands on the lawn or garden, not on paved areas.
- Plant drought resistant trees, plants, and lawn grass. Many beautiful trees and plants thrive with far less watering than other species.
- Put a layer of mulch around trees and plants. Mulch will slow the evaporation of moisture and discourage weed growth.
- Do not permit children to play with the hose or sprinkler.
- Do not use a constant stream of water when washing the car. Wash from a bucket of soapy water, using the hose only to rinse. Wash less frequently during dry, hot weather.
- Use a broom, not a hose, to clean driveways and sidewalks.