



**There are a
number of ways to
save water, and they
all start with YOU.**



North Texas Municipal Water District

505 E. Brown Street • P.O. Box 2408 • Wylie, TX 75098

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www.ntmwd.com

Conserve Water - Outside the Home

- ◆ **Don't water your lawn on windy days. After all, sidewalks and driveways don't need water.**
- ◆ **Group plants with the same watering needs together to get the most out of your watering time.**
- ◆ **Install a rain shut-off device on your automatic sprinklers to eliminate unnecessary watering.**
- ◆ **Landscape with Xeriscape trees, plants and groundcovers. Call your local conservation office for more information about these water thrifty plants.**
- ◆ **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.**
- ◆ **Minimize evaporation by watering during the early morning hours, when temperatures are cooler and winds are lighter.**
- ◆ **Bathe your pets outdoors in an area in need of water.**

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



- ◆ **Adjust your lawn mower to a higher setting. Longer grass shades root systems and holds soil moisture better than a closely clipped lawn.**
- ◆ **Adjust your watering schedule to the season. Water your summer lawn every third day and your winter lawn every fifth day.**

- ◆ **Aerate your lawn. Punch holes in your lawn about six inches apart so water will reach the roots rather than run off the surface.**
- ◆ **Avoid installing ornamental water features and fountains that spray water into the air. Trickling or cascading fountains lose less water to evaporation.**
- ◆ **Bermuda grasses are dormant (brown) in the winter and will only require water once every three to four weeks or less if it rains.**
- ◆ **Use porous materials for walkways and patios to keep water in your yard and prevent wasteful runoff.**
- ◆ **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.**
- ◆ **Use the sprinkler for larger areas of grass. Water small patches by hand to avoid waste.**



HELP US MAINTAIN CLEAN DRINKING WATER SUPPLIES NOW AND INTO THE FUTURE

Your everyday contributions supporting this effort can make a difference.

Conserve Water - Outside the Home (Cont.)

- 💧 **Water only as rapidly as the soil can absorb the water.**
- 💧 **Water your plants deeply but less frequently to create healthier and stronger landscapes.**
- 💧 **Water your summer lawns once every three days and your winter lawn once every five days.**
- 💧 **Watering at the roots is very effective, be careful not to over-water.**
- 💧 **When watering grass on steep slopes, use a soaker hose to prevent wasteful runoff.**
- 💧 **Plant during the spring or fall when the watering requirements are lower.**
- 💧 **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.**
- 💧 **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.**

- 💧 **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.**



- 💧 **While fertilizers promote plant growth, they also increase water consumption. Apply the minimum amount of fertilizer.**
- 💧 **Wash your car on the grass. This will water your lawn at the same time.**
- 💧 **If you have an evaporative cooler, direct the water drain to a flowerbed, tree, or your lawn.**

- 💧 **Set a kitchen timer when watering your lawn or garden with a hose.**
- 💧 **Start a compost pile. Using compost when you plant adds water-holding organic matter to the soil.**
- 💧 **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.**
- 💧 **Reduce the amount of grass in your yard by planting shrubs and groundcover with rock and granite mulching.**
- 💧 **Remember to check your sprinkler system valves periodically for leaks and keep the heads in good shape.**
- 💧 **Remember to weed your lawn and garden regularly. Weeds compete with other plants for nutrients, light, and water.**



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Conserve Water - Outside the Home (Cont.)

- ◆ We're more likely to notice leaky faucets indoors, but don't forget to check outdoor faucets, pipes, and hoses for leaks.
- ◆ Use a layer of organic mulch around plants to reduce evaporation and save hundreds of gallons of water a year.
- ◆ Winterize outdoor spigots when temps dip to 20 degrees F to prevent pipes from bursting or freezing.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Use a hose nozzle and turn off the water while you wash your car and save more than 100 gallons.
- ◆ More plants die from over-watering than under-watering. Be sure only to water plants when necessary.

- ◆ When the kids want to cool off, use the sprinkler in an area where your lawn needs it the most.



- ◆ 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.

- ◆ Check your sprinkler system frequently and adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk, or street.
- ◆ Choose a water-efficient drip irrigation system for trees, shrubs and flowers.
- ◆ Direct downspouts and other runoff towards shrubs and trees, or collect and use for your garden.
- ◆ Divide your watering cycle into shorter periods to reduce runoff and allow for better absorption every time you water.
- ◆ Use a broom instead of a hose to clean your driveway or sidewalk and save 80 gallons of water every time.
- ◆ 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.



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**Do one thing
EVERY DAY
that will save water.**

**Even if savings are small,
every drop counts.**



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