



Although New York receives ample rainfall, there is considerable demand on the state's water resources. With a high population density and increasing water use, conserving potable water outdoors can make a difference in protecting the availability of our most precious resource — water.

There are many ways to reduce outdoor water use, including:

- Watching when and how much you water
- Planting drought-tolerant or native plants
- Using smart irrigation technology
- Using stone and mulch for attractive and water conserving landscape features

Take a look at the tips in this brochure, choose which ones work for you, and start saving water (and money) today!

Did you know?

Nationwide, approximately 7 billion gallons of water are used a day for outdoor water use. An EPA study found that 50 percent of that water is wasted, and not needed to maintain a healthy landscape.

New York American Water is a proud member of the US EPA's WaterSense Program. We are committed to conserving our most precious natural resource – water, so it is available to meet the needs of future generations.



newyorkamwater.com



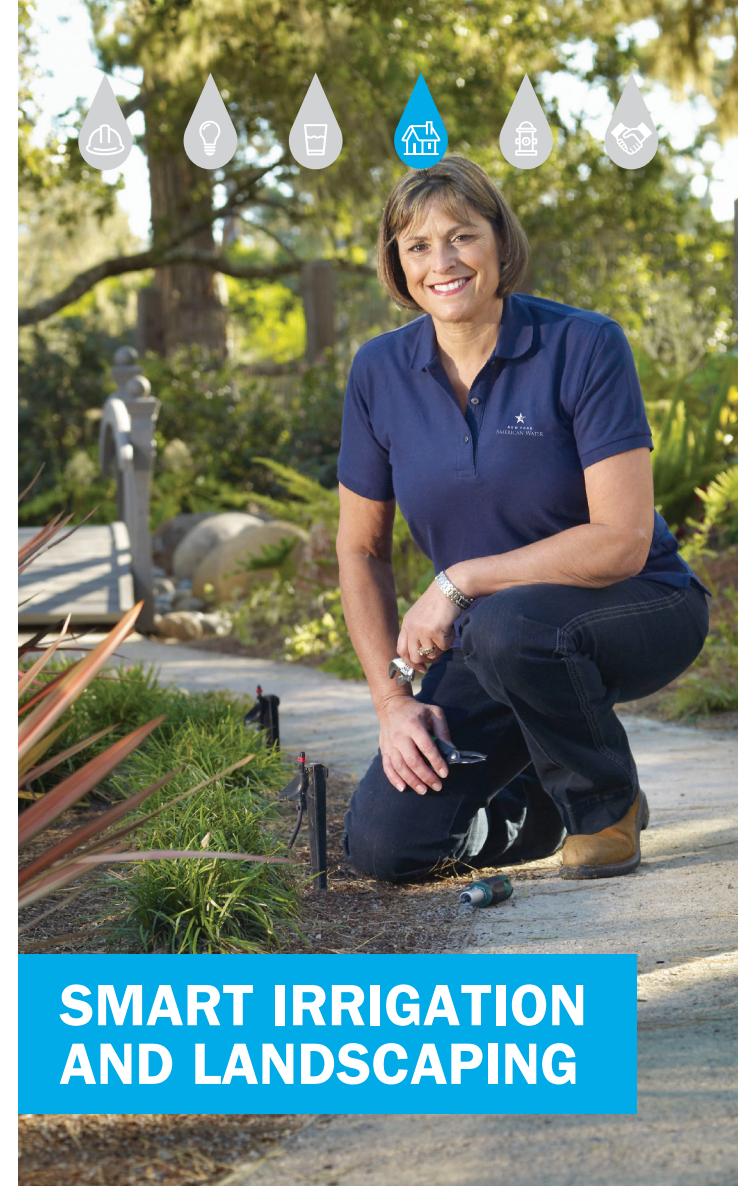
WATER-WISE IRRIGATION SYSTEM FEATURES WORTH CONSIDERING

- **Smart controllers** automatically adjust the irrigation schedule based on weather conditions. If you haven't already, **install a smart controller on your system.** The money you save on water will pay for the controller.
- **Drip irrigation systems** apply water directly to the plant's root zone thus eliminating water loss to evaporation. It is the most efficient way to water plants beds.
- **Rain sensors** automatically shut off sprinkler system when it rains. **Tip:** If your system has a rain sensor, test it periodically to make sure it's working. Most rain sensors have a small spindle on their top. Turn on a sprinkler zone and depress the spindle. The sprinklers should go off. If not, call a Certified Irrigation Professional to have the sensor checked.
- **Seasonal Adjust or Water Budget features on irrigation controllers** allow you to adjust the watering schedule by a percentage. **Tip:** Lower the percentage in cool weather and increase the percentage in hot, dry weather.

LEARN MORE

- **Rutgers Cooperative Extension & Research:** njaes.rutgers.edu. **For a copy of Rutgers' Best Management Practices for Watering Lawns:** njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/publication.asp?pid=FS555
- **Irrigation Association of New York:** www.iany.org/consumer_tips.html
- **New York American Water:** newyorkamwater.com

PROJECT PARTNERS



SMART IRRIGATION AND LANDSCAPING

See inside for tips on how you can conserve water and keep your lawn looking great at the same time!



START WITH A PLAN

- 1 Test the land:** Evaluate the conditions of your site to determine the most compatible plants. Consider amending the soil with organic material to aid in holding moisture.
- 2 Choose drought-resistant plants:** This will decrease the amount of water needed to sustain them.
- 3 Use native plants:** Plants native to the local conditions have the benefit of being able to thrive within them. And, they often require less maintenance and water.

Landscape Design: If you're undertaking large scale outdoor renovations, it's worth checking with a landscaper or local garden center to see if there are other elements that can be incorporated into your landscape design that will help cut down on watering. This can include proper use of ground covers or installing water-saving features designed to capture and/or reduce water runoff, such as rain gardens or bio-swales.

Planting Tip: Group plants with similar water requirements together. Avoid planting a "thirsty" plant with plants that require little water.

WATER-WISE LAWN MAINTENANCE

There are many water-saving measures you can take in caring for your lawn and landscaping. **NOTE:** These are general guidelines. Please work with your local landscaping and irrigation experts for tips that are tailored to meet your needs.

Proper Watering Techniques

- Water late in the day or early in the morning when the sun is low and evaporation will be at a minimum.
- No need to water every day. Depending on the weather or type of plants/turf, you may find that you only need to water once or twice per week. Once you know the amount of water required, choose the day(s) you water using this guideline. If your street address begins with an even number, water on even days of the month. Likewise, street addresses starting with odd numbers should water on odd days of the month. It helps protect the water supply, if all customers are not watering on the same days.
- Don't over water. Check the root zone. When water has penetrated 4 to 6 inches in lawn areas, stop watering. Water again when the soil has dried out.
- Collect rainwater in a rain barrel to water outdoor plants.



Landscaping Maintenance Techniques

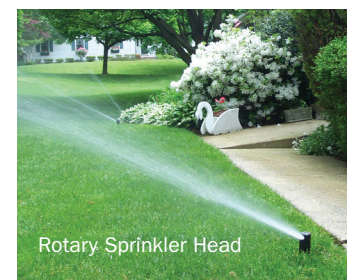
- Mulch plant beds to reduce weeds and preserve moisture. **NOTE:** over mulching can stress plants. Only two to three inches are needed.
- Mow lawns at a height of 2.5 to 3.5 inches depending on the time of year. Mowing at a height of less than 2 inches could result in the grass being less drought- and heat-tolerant and more prone to insect, disease and weed problems.
- Unless otherwise directed, prune in the early spring or late fall; not in the heat of summer.

Did you know? No need to water every day. Instead, water as needed. Less frequent watering results in a healthier lawn and landscape.

SMART IRRIGATION TECHNIQUES

Have an automatic irrigation system? Here are some ways to conserve water.

- Adjust your irrigation controller frequently. If you have to adjust your thermostat, chances are, you should adjust your irrigation controller.
- If the weather forecast calls for rain, turn your irrigation system off ahead of time.
- Install a rain sensor if your system doesn't have one.
- Don't over water. Different types of sprinklers apply water at different rates. For example, for a rotary sprinkler head, you may only need to water 45 minutes per zone in the summer, and less at other times of the year. If watering the same area with a mist or spray head, you may only need to water 15 minutes per zone in the summer.
- Reduce run times accordingly for shady or low areas that may require less water.
- Check your system! Do a "walkthrough" of your landscaped areas, and check your system for pipe breaks or leaks.
- Check sprinkler heads to make sure they're not watering paved or unwanted areas.
- Have your system checked by a Certified Irrigation Professional and ask what improvements can be made to improve your irrigation system's efficiency.



Rotary Sprinkler Head



Spray Head