

12 HANDY OUTDOOR WATER & MONEY-SAVING TIPS FOR SUMMER

Every summer, every drop counts

It's estimated that up to 50% of the water we use for outdoor needs is not necessary to maintain a healthy landscape. But how can you know when and where to use your water wisely? It's easier than you might think. And this handy guide can help you get started. As you enjoy your summer, we hope you'll keep conservation in mind. Not only is saving water good for the environment, it's good for your wallet. For even more water-saving tips, please visit www.illinoisamwater.com.



AMERICAN WATER



Only water when needed

Depending on the weather or type of plants/turf, you may find you only need to water once or twice per week.



Water early in the morning or later in the day

Water when the sun is low to minimize evaporation.

Set your mower higher

That close-cropped lawn may look good for a day or two, but anything cut less than two inches high is much more vulnerable to burnout, weeds, insects, and disease. Best bet? Mowing at 2.5 to 3.5 inches, depending on the time of year.



Keep an eye on weather

If rain is in the forecast, turn your sprinkler system off ahead of time. Even better, install a rain sensor that will do it automatically.



Watch what you're watering

Check sprinkler heads to be sure they're not wasting water on paved or unwanted areas. Reduce run times for shaded areas that may not need as much water.



Check for leaks and breaks

Do a periodic walkthrough of your landscaped area to make sure system pipes are in good condition.



Make use of rainwater

Water collected in rain barrels can be later used to water outdoor plants. Just make sure to mosquito-proof rain barrels with proper coverings or other measures.



Sweep, don't spray

Use a broom instead of a hose to clean patios, decks, and sidewalks.



Mulch

Mulching beds can help retain moisture and prevent weeds. But be careful not to over-mulch, which can stress plants. Two to three inches should do the job.



Use drought-resistant species

Plants that are native to the region will have the benefit of being adapted to local conditions and developed to thrive within them. Also, native plants will often need less maintenance and watering.



Car wash wisely

Washing your car with a bucket of soapy water uses far less water than leaving a hose running. And when you go to a car wash, look for one that recycles their water.



Let water do double duty

Bathe pets outdoors in areas that need water.

