

Outdoor Water Conservation Tips

Sprinkler System Check

Remember to inspect your irrigation system and fix any problems before you start it up for the year or shut it down in the spring. Check each zone for leaky valves, broken sprinkler heads, and leaks in the line. A leaky sprinkler system is a major unseen water waster. Gone undetected, even a small leak can really add up over time.

Aerate Your Lawn

With the clay soils typical to Colorado, it's a good idea to aerate your lawn both in the spring and in the fall. Lawn aeration is the secret weapon in making your lawn healthy. Aeration involves making holes in the lawn either by pushing a rod into it or by "coring", extracting a plug of soil. Aerating your lawn allows oxygen, fertilizers, and nutrients access to the root system. It helps to break up thatch, and it loosens up compacted soil, allowing the root system to grow. Aeration will also greatly improve water penetration and help prevent runoff and water waste.

Don't Just Set it and Forget It

Don't just set your sprinkler system to "auto" and forget about it. Your lawn needs less water in the spring and fall than in the hot summer months, and most lawns do very well with a twice-a-week watering schedule for the majority of the watering season. Adjust the timer on your automatic sprinkler system at least once a month

Don't Water Between 10 am and 6 pm

Irrigate your landscape at night or early in the morning when wind and evaporation losses are lowest, and never water between 10 am and 6 pm

Cycle & Soak

Consider the Cycle and Soak method for watering your lawn. Our soils contain a large amount of clay, making it tough for water to soak in. The Cycle and Soak technique is an efficient method for irrigating lawns, greatly reducing runoff and water waste. If you water your grass three times for four minutes each time, with an hour in between cycles, your lawn will actually absorb more water than if you let the sprinklers run for twelve minutes straight. Most automatic sprinkler systems can be set up for the Cycle and Soak method.

Don't Over-Water Your Lawn

Water your lawn only when necessary and do not over-water it. It has been a cool, wet spring so far, so your lawn probably doesn't need additional moisture. An easy way to check: walk across your lawn. If you look back and don't see any footprints, your lawn doesn't need any water.

Your Sidewalk Won't Grow

Thousands of gallons of water are wasted each day because of sprinklers spraying streets, sidewalks, and driveways. Please take a few minutes to adjust your sprinklers to spray only on your lawn, trees and shrubs. Your grass is thirsty, but your sidewalk is not.

Where's Your Shut-Off Valve?

Know where your master water shut-off valve is located! Shut-off valves can generally be found where the water pipe enters the structure. Family members and coworkers should learn where they are located and how to turn them off in the event of an emergency, such as when a faucet becomes a fountain or a pipe inside a wall bursts. It could save hundreds of gallons of water and prevent thousands of dollars' worth of damage to your home or business.