

# Drips and Drops of Water Conservation

## Water-saving Tips for your home or business

Wise water use and leak repairs can yield savings on your water and sewer bills.



Be kind to our natural resources and future generations. Be a wise user of the water supply. Every drip and drop count.

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ARKANSAS  
WATER**

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www.carkw.com



## Home – Indoor

- **Flush only when necessary.** Every flush you eliminate can save between two and seven gallons of water. Avoid using the toilet for a wastebasket.
- **Reduce water use with a water-efficient toilet.** If you don't have a low-flow toilet, use plastic bottles filled with water and pebbles to displace water in the tank. Don't use bricks!
- **Don't waste water when brushing your teeth or shaving.** Don't let the water run while you brush your teeth or shave. Turn on the faucet briefly to rinse teeth and use an electric razor.



- **Conserve water when bathing.** Filling the bathtub uses about 50 gallons of water. Try bathing in just 10 gallons.
- **Save water with short showers.** To be a water saver, install a low-flow showerhead and keep showers under five minutes. Turn off the water to soap up and lather.
- **Don't waste clean water.** Plug the bathtub and start the hot water; wait to add cold water until the water in the tub has reached the right temperature. When you've finished bathing, use the bath water to clean the tub.
- **Stop leaks.** Twice a year, check all indoor and outdoor faucets for leaks — even a pinhole leak can waste up to 170 gallons a day! Replace worn-out fixtures, washers, O-rings, and hose connections. Always firmly turn off faucets.

- **Wash clothes wisely.** Match the washer's load selector to your load size. Try to wash only full loads and minimize detergent use. More suds mean more water needed to rinse.



- **Use a low-suds detergent.** Washing clothes by hand can be easier and save water, if you use only a small amount of low-suds detergent and pre-soak really dirty items.
- **Conserve when cleaning.** For heavy cleaning, use water you've saved from other household uses then rinse with clean water. Limit soaps and cleaning agents.

- **Use ice to cool water.** Cool drinking water in the refrigerator or with ice and not by running the tap. Use leftover drinking water for pets or to irrigate plants.



- **Reduce dishwashing.** Limit pre-rinse by using a rubber spatula to scrape dishes clean prior to washing. Let really dirty pans or dishes soak to speed washing. Don't let the faucet run while you clean dishes. Simply rinse the dishes in a plugged sink or a pan of clean water.
- **Use fewer dishes.** Limit dishwasher use to full loads and minimize detergent use. Prepare food with consideration to reducing dishwashing.
- **Defrost sensibly.** Instead of using running water, plan ahead to defrost foods overnight in the refrigerator, use the microwave, or put wrapped food in a bowl of cold water.
- **Consider water-saving appliances.** Washing machines and dishwashers that offer load-size and sud-saving settings are good choices.

## Home – Outdoor

- **Cover pool or spas.** Cover pools and spas to reduce evaporation. Avoid overflows and splashes by reducing water levels. Use wading pool water to irrigate the landscape.
- **Save on car washing.** Choose a car wash that recycles water. At home, use a shut-off nozzle and wash your car in small sections. Direct runoff to water landscaping.



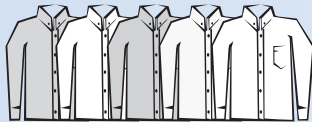
## Check for Leaks

- Turn off all faucets and other water outlets and keep watch on the one-cubic-foot hand on your water meter for 10 or 15 minutes. If the hand continues to move then there is a leak. You can determine the size of the leak by timing the rotation hand and seeing how long it takes to waste a given quantity.
- A quick check can be made for commode leaks by dumping laundry bluing into the tank after it has filled and become quiet. If the bluing appears in the bowl before flushing, you likely have a tank leak.

# Business and Industry

## General Management Practices

- Make a corporate commitment to water efficiency.
- Educate and involve employees in water efficiency efforts.
- Inform suppliers and service contractors that water efficiency is a priority.
- Make changes in kitchen and laundry practices to cut down on water usage.
- Irrigate landscaping only as needed and plant water-saving vegetation, especially native species.



## Equipment changes can yield substantial savings on water, sewer, and energy bills

- Install available water-conserving equipment in your commercial or industrial operation.
- Determine the minimum amount of water needed for your operations.
  - Identify re-use opportunities.
  - Install high-efficiency toilets or retrofit water-saving devices on existing ones.
  - Install faucet aerators and showerheads.
- Install high-pressure, low-volume nozzles on spray washers.
- Install in-line strainers on all spray headers and regularly inspect nozzles for clogging.
- Replace high-volume hoses with high-pressure, low-volume cleaning systems.
- As equipment wears out, update your operations with water-saving models.
- Equip hoses with spring-loaded shutoff nozzles.



Our water conservation tips are courtesy of the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and American Water Works Association.

# Lawn and Garden

Water is an essential ingredient to a healthy lawn or garden. It's important to water deeply but infrequently for your grass and plants to have a strong root system. A deep root system is less sensitive to drought and the hot temperatures of summer.

## Water Infrequently

- 1 or 2 times a week during normal temperatures.
- 2 to 3 times a week during extreme heat.
- More frequently in shorter applications, if you have top soil of less than 2 inches.

## Water Deeply

- 1/2 to 1 inch of water at each application to encourage a deeper root system.
- Avoid runoff on slopes by breaking your application into several shorter times.
- Occasionally check your sprinkler system pattern to ensure full coverage of your landscape and to prevent runoff onto the street and sidewalk.

## Drip Irrigation

- Use drip irrigation or soaker hoses to water shrubs or flower gardens. Both systems apply water slowly and directly to the soil.

## Landscaping

- Plant hardy, water-saving plants, trees, and shrubs, particularly native species. Mow less frequently in dry times. Limit lawn area by using gravel or bark.

## Mulching

- Mulching keeps the soil cooler and can reduce water demand by 40%! A good 2 inches of mulch yield the best results.



# Avoid the Peak!

## Re-set Your Automatic Sprinkler System

**Avoid 5:30 a.m. – 7:30 a.m.**

*Zip Codes 72135, 72211, 72212, and 72223*

During the months of summer, it's possible to stress our water delivery system to the limit simply because so many of our automatic lawn sprinklers come on at the same time.

You can help Central Arkansas Water to control when peak demand occurs by setting your automatic sprinkler system to avoid operating between 5:30 a.m. and 7:30 a.m. weekday mornings.

By re-setting your automatic sprinkler system to avoid peak demand overload, you also help to keep down expensive capital costs for increased distribution capacity and help to conserve an important resource — water.

## Easy Reference Guide

- For more information about your water service, log on to [www.carkw.com](http://www.carkw.com) or call Central Arkansas Water at 501.372.5161.
- For more information about lawn and garden care, log on to [www.uaex.edu](http://www.uaex.edu) or call the Pulaski County Cooperative Extension Service at 501.340.6650.
- For information about re-setting or calibrating your sprinkler system, contact your sprinkler installer or maintenance company.

**Save on water use, save money on your monthly water and sewer bills.**

**UofA** UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS  
DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE  
Cooperative Extension Service

501.340.6650 • [www.uaex.edu](http://www.uaex.edu)

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