

Avoid the Peak!



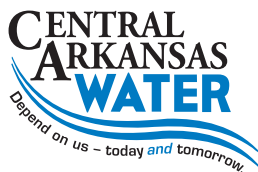
Re-set your lawn sprinkler timer to 3:30 a.m. – 5:30 a.m. or 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

In Central Arkansas, we are blessed with an abundant supply of high-quality and affordable drinking water. However, during the summer months, it is possible to stress the delivery system to the limit simply because so many of our lawn sprinklers come on at the same time — usually between 5:30 a.m. and 7:30 a.m. on weekday mornings. This time also is household rush-hour — when we are busy showering, cooking, washing dishes, and getting ready for the day.

While a water system can tolerate spikes in demand, the continued use of higher-than-normal amounts during a specific time period in a neighborhood can cause *peak demand overload*. Peak demand (or the period of highest demand for water by customers) usually occurs at the same time we are experiencing our hottest temperatures and our lawns and gardens are most thirsty. Operating the distribution pipeline system at or near capacity for an extended period causes low water pressure in affected neighborhoods.

If your lawn or landscaping gets lots of sun, you can help the water system to control when peak demand occurs simply by setting your sprinkler system for **3:30 a.m. – 5:30 a.m.** With early morning watering, you lose less water to evaporation and plants dry quickly. If your lawn or landscaping is in the shade or you are watering disease-prone plants, such as roses, set your sprinkler to operate between **8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.**

Please, be assured that our water supply is more than adequate to meet customer demand. We are not suggesting the curtailment of water usage for irrigation — just asking that you alter your timing and watering patterns to **AVOID THE PEAK** during the hot summer months. You can help us and maintain a healthy lawn or garden.



See reverse side for SMART WATERING TIPS!

Smart Watering Tips

Water Infrequently!

Know your landscape and let your lawn or garden tell you when to water. Your lawn needs water when the blades of grass start to roll up or take on a blue-green color. Also, your lawn has reached the point of thirst when your footprints remain in the grass. During the regular season, water 1 or 2 times a week. During extreme heat, you might water 2 to 3 times a week. If you have less than 2 inches of natural topsoil, you might water more frequently in shorter application times.

Water Deeply!

Give your lawn a tall drink of water! Apply 3/4 to 1 inch of water at each application. Deep, infrequent watering encourages a deeper root system. Frequent, shallow watering allows the plant to develop shallow roots, which are more sensitive to drought and other environmental stresses.

How to know when enough is enough.

How do you know when you have applied 1 inch of water?

Calibrate your sprinkler system with the following easy steps:

1. Collect several straight-sided containers, such as coffee cans or rain gauges.
2. Place the containers randomly in one of your watering zones.
3. Turn on your sprinklers for 15 minutes.
4. Turn off the sprinklers and measure the amount of water in each container.
5. Write down your measurements and take the average by totaling the amount of water in all of the containers and dividing by the number of containers. Now, you know how much water this zone applies in 15 minutes.
6. Set the timer for this zone so that it applies 3/4 to 1 inch of water.
7. Repeat this process for each zone on your sprinkler system.

Avoid Runoff.

If you have a slope and experience runoff while watering, break your watering application into several shorter times.

Don't have an in-ground sprinkler system?

If you have a manual system for watering your lawn or landscaped areas, inexpensive timers placed between the hose and hose bib can turn water on and off automatically. To calibrate the sprinkler, evenly space your straight-sided containers from the base of the sprinkler to the end of the water spray. Turn the sprinkler on for a set amount of time, measure the water in the containers, and take the average as you would for an in-ground sprinkler system.

Easy Reference Guide:

For information on re-setting your in-ground sprinkler system, call your sprinkler installer or maintenance company.

For more information on maintaining a healthy lawn and garden, visit uaex.edu or call the Pulaski County Cooperative Extension Service at 501-340-6650.

For information or questions about your water service, visit carkw.com or call Central Arkansas Water at 501-377-1200.

Smart Watering Tips are courtesy of the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service.