

RESPONSIBLE WATERING TIPS



Practicing water conservation supports our community. Every effort helps keep water secure for emergencies, firefighting, hospitals, drinking, and many other uses.



This irrigation controller helps save water and money!



WORKING WITH GROUNDWATER

When rain returns after a dry period, the impact of the drought remains. It may take a couple of years for groundwater to recover due to a delay in how rain water slowly soaks into the ground. The responsible approach is to always practice conservation, even when it looks like water is plentiful on the surface.

Water Conservation Tips

- ◆ Choose a sprinkler that disperses water low and in drops opposed to a high mist.
- ◆ Pay attention to rainfall and adjust watering schedules accordingly, in addition to odd/even watering days. Turf generally needs just 1"/week
- ◆ Water grass in the morning or evening.
- ◆ For irrigation systems, install a smart irrigation controller to prevent sprinklers from going off when it's raining.
- ◆ Consider allowing a dormant or slightly dormant "brown" look. Dormancy is a normal part of turf grass' annual cycle.
- ◆ Never water pavement. Stray irrigation heads are usually an easy fix, and sprinkler placement should keep water on the lawn.
- ◆ Mow lawn at 3" or more to encourage deeper roots that hold more moisture. This also buffers times of drought.
- ◆ Try switching a part of the yard to native plants, bee lawn, sedge ground covers, or lo-mow fescues.

Water conservation in the home:

- ◆ Keep a pitcher of cold water in the fridge to reduce time spent waiting for the faucet to change temperature.
- ◆ Try to save the garbage disposal for big messes and compost more food scraps.
- ◆ Think ahead for meal planning: Place frozen food in the refrigerator overnight instead of running water to thaw food.
- ◆ Try turning shower water off when lathering, and aim for 5 minute showers.
- ◆ Check toilets and faucets often for leaks and make repairs quickly.
- ◆ Wait to run dishwashers and laundry machines until you have a full load.
- ◆ Seek out water saving appliances and nozzles that are marked with the "WaterSense" label.

For more info:

Visit vlawmo.org/residents for more ways to save water and learn about local water resources.