Outdoor water usage can be twice that of indoor water usage. From choosing low-water, native plants for your landscape to watering and washing techniques, to maintaining your irrigation system and pool properly, there are lots of ways to be more water efficient.

Here are some simple ways for you to take care of your lawn and garden while still conserving water.

# Every Drop Of Water Counts

Our yards are filled with helpful tools and simple reminders to use water wisely

LDWA

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Leeds Domestic
Waterusers Association

# CONSERVING WATER IN THE HOME

Indoor water usage, unlike outdoors, is largely the same year-round. That's good news, because it means a few water-saving measures can save a lot on indoor water consumption.

## **GENERAL OUTDOOR TIPS**



Winterize outdoor spigots when temperatures dip below freezing to prevent pipes from leaking or bursting.



Use a commercial car wash that recycles water.



Wash your pets outdoors, in an area of your lawn that needs water.



When cleaning out fish tanks, give the nutrient-rich water to your nonedible plants.



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



Evaporative coolers require annual Seasonal maintenance check.



If you have an evaporative cooler, direct the water drain to plants in your landscape.



Report broken pipes, leaky hydrants, and water waste to property owners or to the LDWA.

#### IN THE YARD



Follow Washington County's watering schedule guide.



Next time you turn on your sprinklers, place an empty tuna can in the yard. Once the can is full, you've given your lawn all the water it needs.



When it's windy, wait to water. During windy weather, more water evaporates and less gets to your grass or plants.



Choose water smart plants that are suited for the Chihuahuan Desert.



Use an automatic shut-off nozzle on your hose to save hundreds of gallons of water while you wash your car.



Check your irrigation system for clogged, broken, or missing sprinkler heads. If you're not the do-it yourself type, go with a pro.



Examine points where the sprinkler heads connect to pipes/hoses. If water is pooling or you have large wet areas, you could have a leak in your system.



Direct your sprinklers to apply water only to your lawn or prized plants. Make sure you are not watering the driveway, house, or sidewalk.



Adjust your lawn mower to the height of 1.5 to 2 inches. Taller grass shades roots and holds soil moisture better than short grass...



Leave lawn clippings to decompose on your grass. Clippings provide nutrients, help cool the ground and retain moisture.



Aerate your lawn periodically to improve air flow and compaction. Holes every six inches will allow water to reach the roots, rather than run off the surface.



Remember to weed your lawn and garden regularly so that weeds don't compete with other plants for nutrients and water.



Hire a qualified professional to install your irrigation system and keep it working properly and efficiently. A licensed irrigator is the way to go!



Use fertilizers sparingly. While they promote plant growth, they also increase water consumption

### **POOLTIPS**



Instead of building a private pool, join a community pool.



Use a pool cover to help keep your pool clean, reduce chemical use and prevent water loss through evaporation.



Make sure your swimming pool, fountain and/or pond is equipped with recirculating pumps.



Minimize or eliminate the use of waterfalls and sprays in your pool. Aeration Increases evaporation.