



42 Ways To Save Water

Water Conservation Tips
From the City of Yakima
Water/Irrigation Division

Water Lawns and Plants in Early Morning or At Night

By watering your lawn and plants at times other than in the heat of the day, less evaporation occurs so more water soaks in the soil

Run Your Clothes Washer and Dishwasher Only When Full

Doing full loads of clothes and dishes can save up to 1000 gallons of water each month and saves you money on your electric bill

Shorten Showering Times

Shortening your shower time by as little as 1 minute each day can save as much as 150 gallons each month

Set Your Lawn Mower to The Right Height

Setting your lawnmower to cut grass at about 2 inches encourages deeper, healthier roots and helps your lawn retain moisture

Use Drip Irrigation for Plants and Shrubs

Drip irrigation delivers water directly where it's needed

Drip irrigation also uses much less water than more traditional sprinkler irrigation

Install a Water-Efficient Showerhead

Water-efficient showerheads are inexpensive, easy to install and can save as much as 750 gallons of water each month

Consider “Grasscycling”

Leave grass clippings on the
lawn as you mow
Grasscycling helps your lawn
retain moisture and provides a
free source of fertilizer

Plant Right For Your Site

The Yakima Valley is a semi-arid desert
Choose outdoor plants that are
native to our area

Ask at a local nursery for help
In choosing plants that require
less water

Soak When Washing **Dishes By Hand**

Instead of letting the water run when hand washing dishes, fill the sink with water once and let the dishes soak. When you're ready, refill the sink with clean water and use it to rinse your dishes.

Set Sprinklers In The Right Place

Make sure you set your sprinklers so that they water your lawn and plants rather than the house, sidewalk, street or driveway

Consider Composting **Instead of Garbage Disposal**

Use food waste as
free fertilizer rather grinding it
up in the garbage disposal
and washing it down the drain

Use The Refrigerator To Cool Drinking Water

Instead of letting the tap run
until water is cold enough to
drink, fill a pitcher with water and
put it in the refrigerator

That way, you'll always have cold water

Use A Pan to Rinse **Fruits and Vegetables**

Instead of letting the tap run,
fill a pan with water and use
it to rinse off fruits and vegetables

Use Mulch On Plant **And Flower Beds**

Spreading a layer of organic mulch around flowers and plants saves water, time and money

Sweep Instead Of Washing

Use a broom instead of a hose
to clean off porches, sidewalks
and driveways

Cover Pools **And Hot Tubs**

Covering pool and hot tubs when they're not being used reduces evaporation and retains heat, which saves on power bills

Check for Leaks **And Fix Them**

Make sure toilets, faucets, sinks,
showers, bathtubs and any other
household item that uses water aren't
leaking
Leaks waste water

Use Fish Tank Water To Feed Plants

When cleaning out a fish tank,
use the nutrient-rich water
to provide plants with an
outstanding source of food

Don't Water If **You Don't Have To**

Before watering lawns, flowers or plants,
check to see if the soil is still wet 1 to 2
inches below ground level
If the soil at that depth is still wet,
you don't need to water

Plant Ground Cover On Slopes

Water will run down a slope that's
with flower or even grass
Planting slopes with ground cover
greatly reduces water runoff

Use Organic Material To Control Weeds

By layering organic material (mulch) on flower and plant beds, you'll be better able to limit the growth of weeds which compete with other plants for water

Limit Use of Fertilizer

By using less fertilizer, you help protect the ground water supply AND you make your lawn, plants and flowers more drought resistant

Use A Commercial Car Wash

Commercial car washes recycle water
Instead of washing your car at home
in the driveway and watching all of
that water run into the sewer system,
using a commercial car wash saves
water

Turn Off The Tap **While Brushing Teeth**

Instead of letting the water run while you're brushing your teeth, turning the tap on only when you need to rinse can save up to 25 gallons of water each month

Let Your Dishwasher **Do Its Job**

Most new dishwashers don't require
dishes to be rinsed before being put
in the dishwasher

Not rinsing dishes before you put them
in the dishwasher can save up to
35 gallons of water each month

Insulate Hot Water Pipes

Insulating hot water pipes results in
hotter water coming out of the tap
faster, lower water usage and
lower power bills

Don't Use the Toilet **As A Waste Basket**

Throw used tissues in the wastebasket
instead of in the toilet

Remember, every flush of the toilet
uses as much as 2.5 gallons of
water

Flush Responsibly

Wash Dark Clothes In Cold Water

Washing dark-colored clothes in cold water saves water, lowers your power bill and helps those clothes stay vibrant and colorful

Uses Nature's Own Soil Protector

Leaving lower branches on trees and shrubs, and allowing leaves to accumulate on the soil, helps the soil stay cooler and reduces evaporation

Let Your Lawn Go **Dormant This Summer**

Water your lawn only once every
2 to 3 weeks this summer

While the grass may not be as green
as normal, it will simply be dormant,
not dead and will spring back to life
the next time it rains

Use “Big-Drop” Sprinklers

Use sprinklers that deliver large drops of water close to the ground
“Misting” and “Small-Drop”
sprinklers use more water and
allow water to evaporate before
it reaches the ground

Don't Drown Your Plants and Flowers

Water plants and flowers only
when they need it

Believe it or not, more plants and
flowers die from over-watering
than from under-watering

Vary Your Automatic Irrigation System Schedule

Instead of setting your automatic irrigation system to follow the same Watering schedule all summer, vary your settings depending on weather conditions

More frequent watering when it's hot,
less frequent watering when it's not

Wash Your Hair **With Less Water**

Turning the tap off when washing your hair and back on only to rinse your hair can save up to 150 gallons of water each month

Wash Your Pets Outside

Washing your pets outside on a part of your lawn that is in particular need of water uses water twice AND avoids having to clean up inside the house

Aerate Your Lawn **Once or Twice A Year**

Aerating, or poking holes, in your lawn allows water to more easily get to where it's need, at the roots

Turn Off The Tap While Shaving

If you shave over a sink, turn off the tap while you shave and you can save up to 300 gallons of water each month

Put Your Plants On Ice

Burying an ice cube in the soil of a planter or flower pot will deliver a constant, cool drink of water while avoiding overflow

Take Showers Instead of Baths

The average bathtub requires 50 gallons of water to fill while the average shower uses only about 20 gallons of water

Pest-Resistant and Drought-Resistant Plants

Pest-resistant plants reduce the need for pesticides which can harm the water supply, and drought-resistant plants, obviously, require less water to survive and thrive

New Household Appliances, Etc.

Newer toilets, water heaters, dishwashers, clothes washers, showers, etc. use less water than older models

Xeriscape (Not Zeroscape)

Xeriscaping involves using plants and flowers that are low water users

Xeriscaping also can include using rocks and other decorative material to create a beautiful, water friendly yard



**Thanks for doing
your part to help
conserve water!**

*City of Yakima
Water/Irrigation Division*