



Summer Water Conservation Tips

For many Americans, Memorial Weekend is the start of the “peak” season for water consumption. Water consumption in the average American home, on summer days, can spike causing significantly higher water usage bills, compared to their "off peak" season.

How can I be WATER SMART in the summer and still have a green grass?

With the City of Fircrest’s 3-tier water rates many are asking “how can I afford to have a nice green lawn without the hefty water bill?” So, we have completed the following information to help those who tend to “over water” their lawn and/or to help use water more wisely in other aspects/areas during the summer months to help promote water conservation and in turn save money on the water usage portion on your bill.

1. Water your lawn, garden and shrubs only when it needs it. (If it’s still moist 1-2 inches under the soil surface, you still have enough water).

***How can I tell if my lawn needs water?**

- a. walk across the grass. If the lawn springs back you don't need to water, but if you leave footprints, water may be needed.
- b. Use a Moisture Meter available free through the City of Fircrest Public Works Department.
- c. Use a Rain Gauge also available free through the City of Fircrest Public Works Department.

***How often/much should I water?**

Most lawns need about 1” (one inch) of water – including rain fall – to stay healthy. We recommend watering every other day, during the hottest summer weather, for 10-15 minutes per area/zone. During cooler days you could be able to water one day a week for 10-15 minutes per area/zone and still maintain a healthy lawn.

2. Water in the early morning or in the evening.
***Did you know?** As much as 30 percent of water can be lost to evaporation and you can burn your grass by watering during midday.
3. Set a timer or alarm when watering your lawn or garden to remind you when to stop.
***Did you know?** A running hose can discharge up to 10 gallons a minute.
4. Use sprinklers that deliver big drops of water close to the ground.
***Did you know?** Smaller water drops and mist often evaporate before they hit the ground
5. Spreading a layer of organic mulch around plants retains moisture and saves water, time and money
6. Set your lawn mower one notch higher to make your lawn more drought-tolerant.
7. Dethatch and aerate your lawn at least once a year so water can reach the roots rather than run off the surface.
8. Use a broom instead of a hose to clean your sidewalk, driveway or patio.
9. Forego the hose and wash your car with a bucket and sponge instead.
***Did you know?** A hose left running can waste as much as six gallons per minute while a bucket and sponge uses only a few gallons to do the job.