

# Outdoor Tips

## Leaks

- We're more likely to notice leaky faucets indoors, but don't forget to check outdoor faucets, pipes, and hoses for leaks.
- Check your water meter and bill to track your water usage.
- Check under the house and around the yard for unusually wet areas.

## Landscaping

- Avoid planting turf in areas that are hard to water such as steep inclines and isolated strips along sidewalks and driveways.
- Plant during the spring or fall when the watering requirements are lower
- Use a layer of organic mulch around plants to reduce evaporation and save hundreds of gallons of water a year.
- Adjust your lawn mower to a higher setting. Longer grass shades root systems and holds soil moisture better than a closely clipped lawn.
- Use the sprinkler for larger areas of grass. Water small patches by hand to avoid waste.

## Irrigation

- Use a rain barrel to capture rainwater for irrigation.
- Only water your lawn when needed. You can tell this by simply walking across your lawn. If you leave footprints, it's time to water.
- Minimize evaporation by watering during the early morning hours, when temperatures are cooler and winds are lighter
- Water your summer lawns once every three days and your winter lawn once every five days.
- Check your sprinkler system frequently and adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk, or street.
- Install covers on pools and spas and check for leaks around your pumps.
- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean your driveway or sidewalk and save 80 gallons of water every time.
- Direct downspouts and other runoff towards shrubs and trees, or collect and use for your garden.
- Install a rain shut-off device on your automatic sprinklers to eliminate unnecessary watering.