



## Water Conservation: Tips for Outdoors

- Don't water lawn and garden if rainfall has been sufficient.
  - o Established lawns only need about 2.5 cm/week, avoid overwatering.
- Water early in the morning or in the evening to limit evaporation.
- Situate sprinklers to avoid watering paved surfaces, only lawns and gardens.
- Check hoses and sprinklers frequently for leaks.
- Don't mow your lawn shorter than 6-8 cm as longer grass has more protection for roots and will retain water better.
- Leave grass clippings when you mow as they return nitrogen to the soil and make for a healthier lawn.
- Aerate lawn yearly to better allow for percolation of water into the soil.
- Use mulch in your garden to protect against water evaporation and decrease frequency of watering.
- Plant native plants that are adapted to the climate and require less water.
- Manage storm water using a rain garden to filter runoff and aid in restoring groundwater.
- Decrease stress on well by collecting water from your roof into a rain barrel and using it for irrigating lawn and garden.
- Avoid using hose to clean driveway, sweep it instead.
- When washing your car, use a bucket of soapy water to wash. Only use the hose for the last rinse or wash it while it's raining!
- Put a cover on your swimming pool to reduce evaporation.

### References:

Cocoa Utilities Department's Conservation Checklist for Homeowners.

<http://www.cocoafl.org>

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation: Water Saving Tips for Your Lawn and Garden.

[https://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/co/grho/grho\\_008.cfm](https://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/co/grho/grho_008.cfm)