

JULY BILLING CYCLE

Outdoors



1 Add mulch to your lawn
⦿ Retains 80% of water

2 Plant drought-resistant plants
⦿ Saves 110 gallons/week

3 Collect rainwater in barrel
⦿ Saves 21 gallons/week

4 Sweep driveways
⦿ Saves 1,050 gallons/week

5 Maintain your irrigation system
⦿ Saves 146 gallons/week

It's no secret that we in West Texas have a very arid climate and are therefore more susceptible to droughts. It's our duty as part of the family of our community to protect this very important resource!

Here are some ideas to conserve water during the summer.

- Check outside faucets and pipes for leaks - Even a small drip can waste 150 or more gallons of water a day. Check pipes and connections for leaks regularly.
- Water your lawn only when it needs it - Watering on a regular schedule doesn't allow for cool spells or rainfall which reduce the need for watering. Step on some grass. If it springs back up when you move your foot, it doesn't need water.
- Deep line or soak your lawn or gardens - When you do water your lawn, water it long enough for water to seep down to the roots where it is needed. A light sprinkling that sits on the surface will simply evaporate and be wasted.
- Water during the cool parts of the day - Early morning (between 5:00 and 8:00 am) is better than dusk since it helps prevent the growth of fungus.
- Don't water the gutter - Position your sprinklers so that water lands on your lawn or garden, not in areas where it does no good.
- Maintain your irrigation system. Up to 50% of outdoor home water use is lost due to wind, evaporation and runoff caused by inefficient irrigation methods. Save up to 146 gallons of water per week by checking on your irrigation system monthly.

- Adjust your irrigation schedules depending on the time of year, running sprinklers less frequently in the winter months - Another trick is to run your sprinklers in the morning to lose less water to evaporation.
- Periodically check and adjust sprinklers systems - Ensure their accurate, effective and timely application of water when and where needed.
- Use sprinklers that deliver big drops of water - Close to the ground. Instead of an Oscillating sprinkler type unit, use a pop-up, micro or rotating spike lawn sprinkler unit. Ensure the unit is adjustable with the spray and adjustable target area type unit.
- Install a drip or soak line(s) in vegetable or flower garden area - These are very easy and inexpensive to install.
- Plant native and drought-tolerant plants. Native plants are already accustomed to the climate and natural rainfall.
- Add rocks around trees - Consider drilling a 20 foot deep by 3–4-inch diameter hole next to trees and fill it with loose gravel. Then fill with water. The water will evaporate 75% slower than without the graveled hole.
- Avoid watering on windy days - When much of your water may be carried off to the streets and sidewalks or evaporate into the air.
- Gardening can be very water adverse. Add mulch to your garden or lawn. Mulch is a great way to conserve water in your yard, because it prevents evaporation and weed growth by helping plants hold their moisture. Compost, wood chips and straw are three popular mulches for moisture retention and can help reduce evaporation from soil by up to 70%.
- Target watering - Rather than watering your entire garden dirt only areas, add a drip line directly to plant roots.
- Alternative ways to clean - Use a broom to clean driveways, sidewalks and steps. Using a hose wastes hundreds and hundreds of gallons of water. Skip the hose and grab a broom or electric/battery operated blower next time you clean your driveways and sidewalks. This small maintenance task can save up to 150 gallons of water every cleaning. Some cities have required broom cleaning by law during droughts.
- Collect rainwater in a barrel(s) - Harvesting rainwater is a natural irrigation method that collects rain in a barrel for you to reuse on your yard or garden.