



American Water Offers Nine Tips To Protect The Environment And Save Water

Warmer Weather Shouldn't Mean Wasted Water

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From washing the car, watering the lawn or splashing in the pool, American families will use lots of water this summer. In fact, the average American household uses more than 94,000 gallons of fresh water each year, enough to fill two and one half Olympic sized swimming pools! And, every day, the average American uses approximately 168 gallons of water a day - only a gallon of which is used for drinking and cooking.

Like many natural resources, water supplies are limited. According to American Water, the largest water services provider in North America, there are simple ways to reduce excess water use, lower water bills and protect the environment in the spring and summer months.

"Cutting down on water use doesn't mean cutting down on outdoor activities or neglecting your lawn," said John Young, American Water's Chief Operating Officer. "These are simple steps that keep water use low when it matters the most."

American Water recommends:

- **Water your lawn only when it needs it.** An easy way to tell if your lawn needs water is to simply walk across the grass. If you leave footprints, it's time to water. Make the most of your watering by:
 - Watering in the early morning. As much as 30% of water can be lost to evaporation if you water during midday.
 - Planning for a few deep-soaking waterings rather than frequent sprinklings, which can evaporate quickly.
 - Setting your lawn mower one notch higher to reduce evaporation.
- **Check your sprinkler system.** Check sprinkler heads and valves for leaks and adjust the timer according to seasonal water needs and weather conditions. Also, make sure each is covering lawn and shrubs, and not sidewalks and roads!
- **Plant for your climate.** Native and drought-tolerant plants may have lower water needs. Your local nursery or state agriculture extension office are good information resources for planning a water-wise garden.
- **Use mulch in the garden.** Mulching around plants and shrubs preserves moisture.
- **Control the flow.** When using a hose, control the flow with an automatic shut-off nozzle.
- **Use a pool cover.** You can cut evaporation loss by as much as 90 percent.
- **Use a broom** , instead of a hose, to clean sidewalks and driveways.
- **Wash your car wisely** , by using soap and water from a bucket, along with a sponge and hose with a shut-off valve.
- **Stop leaks before they start** by disconnecting hoses and making sure outdoor water is shut off during cold weather.

[Download image courtesy of American Water](#) .

Contact
Kimberly Cooper
856-346-8207