

## **WATER CONSERVATION TIPS**

East Valley Metro District – Centennial, Colorado

Your lawn is your biggest water user. Our wells are facing considerable pressure due to high demand from the drought and new development in the area. Please do your part to use water wisely.

- Avoid watering when it's windy. Depending upon wind speed, up to 80% of your water can be lost to the air.
- As required by the watering schedule, water is allowed at night to avoid evaporation. Contrary to some beliefs, fungus growth in turf due to watering at night is not a problem in Colorado.
- Don't over-water. Fungus growth, root-rot, root-eating sod worms and slugs are a problem if your turf is not allowed a drying period after watering or heavy rains.
- Adjust sprinklers so only the lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk, or street. Repair leaks.
- Aeration in spring, summer and fall is beneficial to your turf and increases lawn-watering efficiency.
- A heavy rain means you don't have to water at all.
- Teach the family how to turn off an automatic sprinkler system in case a wind or rainstorm comes up during the sprinkling cycle.
- Even though we have a watering schedule, you likely can water less than the schedule allows during spring and fall months. Please, don't water because the schedule says so, only water when truly necessary.
- Buy a rain gauge to determine how much rain or irrigation your yard has received.
- Set your lawn mower to the highest cutting level.
- Mulch rather than collect clippings when mowing. Mulched particles reduce evaporation and return nutrients to soil.
- Use careful consideration and consult with experts when planting new trees and shrubs to ensure optimal planting times and climate appropriate species.
- Indoor water savings can also add-up. Install low flow devices for showerheads and sinks. Toss that old five-gallon a flush toilet for a new 1.6 gal toilet. Buy a low water use front load washing machine and use 40% less water, less soap, less energy and save money! Run the dishwasher only when full. If you minimize pre-rinsing in the sink, which most new dishwashers don't require, you will use less water than washing dishes by hand!

Some good Xeriscape web sites are:

<http://www.xeriscape.org/>

<http://www.csu.org/xeri/>