

HANDY TIPS TO CONSERVE & SAVE MONEY THIS SUMMER

WHEN WATERING



ONLY WATER WHEN NEEDED. Depending on the weather or type of plants/turf, you may find you only need to water once or twice per week.



WATER EARLY IN THE MORNING OR LATER IN THE DAY. Water when the sun is low to minimize evaporation.



WATCH WHAT YOU'RE WATERING. Check sprinkler heads to be sure they're not wasting water on paved or unwanted areas. Reduce run times for shaded areas.



KEEP AN EYE ON WEATHER. If rain is in the forecast, turn your sprinkler system off ahead of time.



MAKE USE OF RAINWATER. Water collected in rain barrels can be later used to water outdoor plants. Make sure rain barrels have proper coverings.

IN THE YARD



USE DROUGHT-RESISTANT SPECIES. Native plants will have the benefit of being adapted to local conditions. Also, they usually need less maintenance and watering.



MULCH. Mulching beds can help retain moisture and prevent weeds. Be careful not to over-mulch. Two to three inches should do the job.



SET YOUR MOWER HIGHER. Anything cut less than two inches high is much more vulnerable to burnout, weeds, insects, and disease. Best bet? Mowing at 2.5 to 3.5 inches, depending on the time of year.

AROUND THE HOUSE



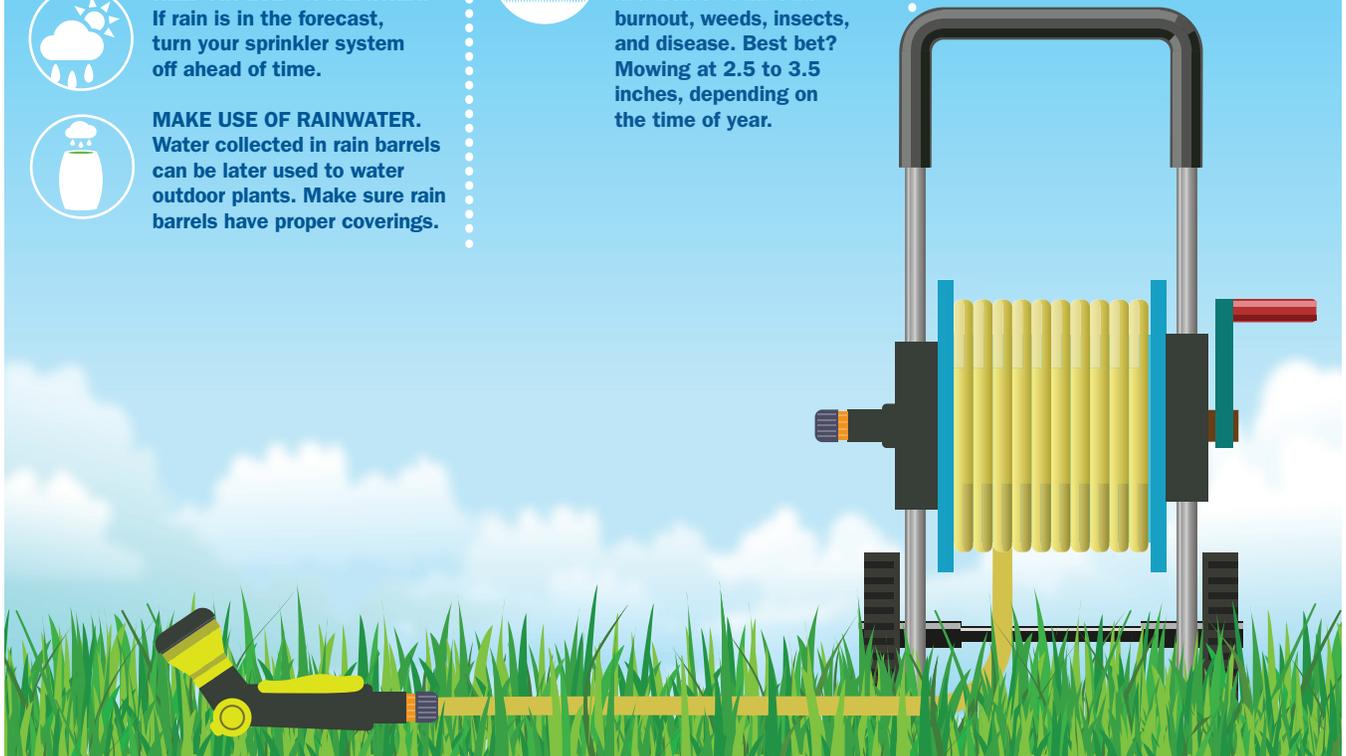
CHECK FOR LEAKS AND BREAKS. Do a periodic walkthrough of your landscaped area to make sure system pipes are in good condition.



SWEEP, DON'T SPRAY. Use a broom instead of a hose to clean patios, decks, and sidewalks.



CAR WASH WISELY. Washing your car with a bucket of soapy water uses far less water than leaving a hose running.



EVERY SUMMER, EVERY DROP COUNTS

It's estimated that up to 50% of the water we use outdoors in the summer is not needed to maintain a healthy landscape. But how do you know where where to begin to use water wisely? It's easier than you might think. And this handy guide can help you get started. As you enjoy your summer, we hope you'll keep conservation in mind.



AVOID FROZEN PIPES

THIS WINTER



BEFORE THE COLD WEATHER SETS IN



Check sprinkler or irrigation systems. Make sure everything is turned off and drained.



Eliminate sources of cold air near water lines. Fix drafty windows and plug drafts around doors. Identify your home's freezing points.



Know how to shut off your water.



Protect your pipes. Wrap them with insulation.

WHEN TEMPERATURES STAY BELOW FREEZING



If pipes run through cabinets or vanities, open the doors to let warmer room temperatures flow in.



Keep water moving through the pipes by allowing a small trickle of water to run.

BUT IF YOUR PIPES DO FREEZE



Shut off the water immediately.



Thaw pipes with warm air, with a hair dryer or space heater. Do not leave space heaters unattended and do not use kerosene heaters or open flames.



Be careful turning water back on. Once pipes are thawed, slowly turn the water back on and check pipes and joints for any cracks.

IT'S ALL ABOUT PREVENTION

Frozen pipes can leave you without water in the worst of weather. And cost a lot to repair. But with a few simple steps, you can easily preserve both your budget and your peace of mind.

