



**Drip. Drip. Drip.** Every drop adds up. The many ways in which water can be wasted around the house add up to a major conservation problem. It's a problem you can help solve.

You may not have noticed, but we have. We've checked off (on the other side) one or more ways you should begin conserving water right now.

**Conservation is the law!**

The Lakewood City Council adopted a water conservation plan in 1991. The plan includes commonsense conservation measures, as well as penalties for excessive water use during severe drought conditions.

Lakewood is currently in the first, voluntary phase of the conservation plan, and the following water-wise practices should be followed:

- Watering lawns and landscaped areas after 5:00 p.m. and before 7:00 a.m.
- Preventing overspray from lawn irrigations.
- Washing vehicles with a bucket or with a hose equipped with a positive shut off nozzle and used for quick rinses only.
- Repairing leaks in plumbing.
- Strictly limiting sidewalk and driveway wash downs.

In addition, Lakewood encourages:

- Installation of ultra-low-flow toilets and low-flow shower heads and faucets.
- Installation of drip irrigation systems, low-flow lawn sprinklers, and "smart" irrigation controllers.

## IS YOUR HOME WATER TIGHT?

You can also request a conservation water audit from the city's Water Resources Department. For assistance in scheduling an audit, call 562-866-9771, extension 2700 during city business hours.

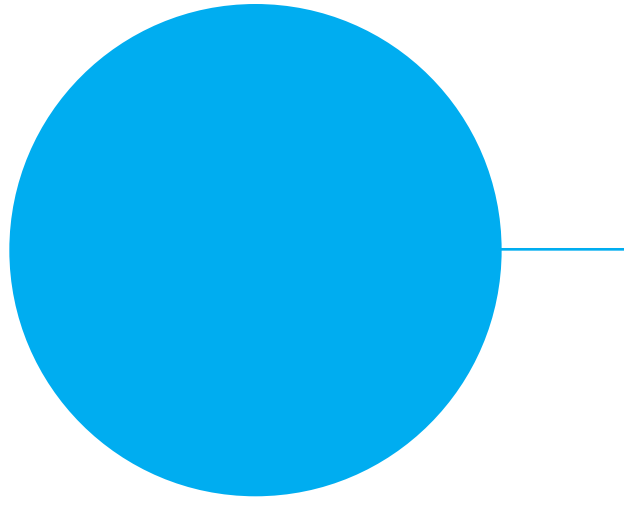
**Think as you use!**

Lakewood's water supplies are adequate for our needs today, but none of our water should ever be wasted. Becoming conscious of the amount of water you use is the most important conservation step. Think as you use water!

Typically, 50 percent of the water consumed by households is used outdoors. Studies show that the average homeowner uses more than four times the actual amount of water needed to keep a lawn healthy and green – wasted water that runs off into storm drains.

Water your lawn only when it needs it. Step on your grass. If it springs back when you lift your foot, it doesn't need water. Set your sprinklers for more days in between watering. Avoid rigid water schedules that result in wasteful runoff. Deep soak each time you water. Watering deeply and infrequently creates a healthy root system that is better equipped to withstand heat and drought. The soils in Lakewood may require that you water in several short repeat cycles on the same day to avoid runoff.

**City of Lakewood Water Resources Department**  
[www.lakewoodcity.org/conserves](http://www.lakewoodcity.org/conserves)  
 562-866-9771, extension 2700



## You're wasting water!

**Lakewood Water Department personnel have observed water wasting problems at your address.**

Please take the indicated steps (below) to help conserve water:

- Adjust irrigation sprinklers to spray on your lawn and plants.
- Adjust your irrigation timer to reduce watering duration and/or frequency to eliminate over-watering.
- Check your sprinkler system for broken sprinkler heads or a sticking valve.
- Use a broom to clean the sidewalk, driveway, and patio.
- Your water meter indicates high water use. Check for leaks inside and outside your home. Call 562-866-9771, extension 2700 for a water audit.

### **Saving water begins in your own garden:**

Start saving with these conservation tips:

- Install drip irrigation systems and soaker hoses in flower and vegetable gardens and around trees and shrubs.
- Condition your lawn to use less water. Increase the height of the lawn to expand the root system. Keep mower blades sharpened. Rake out the thatch.
- In flower beds, till the soil with compost to improve its water holding capacity and put down a layer of organic mulch two to three inches deep. A mix of lawn clippings and leaves is an economical mulch. (Keep mulch away from the base of trunks to allow plants to breathe.) Mulch will moderate soil temperatures, reduce moisture loss, and retard weed growth.
- Weeds are notorious for stealing water away from other plants. If you keep weed populations in check, you won't have to water as often.
- Focus on growing drought-tolerant plants. A number of beautiful plants, both native and non-native, can survive with less water once they are established.
- Use porous paving materials such as brick, decomposed granite, or gravel on patio surfaces and walkways to keep water in the garden rather than in the gutter.

Go to [www.lakewoodcity.org/greenliving](http://www.lakewoodcity.org/greenliving) to learn how Lakewood is acting locally to protect the global environment and to learn how you can help.

