



Caring for your Lawn

Water Conservation Tips



If you don't want a water wise landscape, at least water wisely!

Watering Guidelines

On average, outdoor water use accounts for about two-thirds of a typical home's water use. Many homeowners over water their lawns by 30% to 300%! Not only can overwatering be bad for your lawn, it often causes the excess water to run off the landscape, into the street and down our storm drains.

Follow these easy steps to water more efficiently:*

1. Water landscaping between 5:00 pm to 9:00 am (SP Code), the best time is between 4:00 am to 8:00 am.
2. Basic time guidelines are (follow city's watering day requirements):

Summer	No more than 3 times per week
Fall	No more than 2 to 3 times per week
Spring	No more than 3 times per week
Winter	No more than 1 time per week
3. Use MP rotating sprinkler heads which water slower and more efficiently than traditional sprinkler heads (rebates available at SoCalWaterSmart.com).
4. Water more accurately for your type of grass, soil, sprinkler type and location. For details, visit: bewaterwise.com/calculator.html
5. Check and adjust your irrigation system (timer and sprinkler heads) monthly.
6. Install a weather based irrigation controller that adjusts with the weather (rebates available at SoCalWaterSmart.com).

Mowing Height

Select less thirsty grasses (see table below) and mow it to the correct height. Use a longer cut for maximum water conservation and healthier turf. Raise your lawn mower blade to 3" to 3-1/2" in the summer and to 1-1/2" to 2-1/2" in the cooler months. A lawn cut higher encourages grass roots to grow deeper, shades the root system and holds in soil moisture better than a closely clipped lawn.

Cool Season Turf (Thirsty!)	Warm Season Turf (medium water)	Turf Alternatives (water wise)
Kentucky Bluegrass	Bermuda	Buffalo Grass (no mowing)
Fescue	Zoysia	Carex Pansa
Marathon	St. Augustine	Dymondia
Ryegrass	Kikuyu	Various Groundcovers

Other Tips

1. **Water Cycles** - Deep watering less frequently encourages stronger, healthier turf with deeper roots. To avoid overwatering and run-off, water in cycles (example: instead of watering for 10 full minutes, water for 5 minutes at 4:00 a.m. and then water for another 5 minutes at 6 a.m.) *
2. **Reduce Lawn Area** - Expand planter bed borders with drought tolerant plants. Make sure these areas are on separate valves in order to water these areas appropriately.
3. **Fertilizer** – If you fertilize, use an organic, composted manure and compost instead of chemical fertilizers. This will build a healthier soil, conserve moisture, and be less likely to cause water quality problems when run-off goes into our storm drains.
4. **Grasscycle** - Leave grass clipping on the lawn to naturally decompose. The clippings return nutrients back into the soil and prevent overfilling our landfills.
5. **Aerate and Dethatch** – At least twice a year aerate and dethatch your lawn to help water infiltrate.

* Note: Many of these tips work also great for water wise landscapes.

For More Information:

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