



WATER CONSERVATION

Outdoor Tips for Water Conservation

LAWNS:

Lawns require only 2 - 3cm (1 inch) of water per week to stay healthy. Lawn watering can use as much as 50% of home water consumption during summer. Use a rain gauge to measure natural rainfall and your lawn watering. More than 50% of water applied to lawns and gardens is lost to evaporation or run-off because of over-watering.

To reduce losses due to evaporation, water early in the morning.

Use low angle or pulsating sprinklers that produce large fat droplets of water. Sprinklers that spray water high into the air or produce a fine mist lose much of the water to evaporation.

Set up sprinklers to water the lawn, not the driveway or sidewalk.

Check your faucets, water hoses and sprinklers regularly for any leaks and repair or replace as needed. A small drip or leak can waste water or create over-watering and/or puddles.

Keep your grass about 6 cm (2 1/2 inches) long because taller grass holds water better.

PLANTING:

Add 5 to 10 cm (2 to 4 inches) of organic material, such as peat moss or compost, to increase the ability of the soil to retain moisture.

Water the roots, not the leaves of the plants.

Use drought-resistant plants. Native or adaptive plants will use less water. Check with your local greenhouses for a listing of plants.

Consider replacing some of your lawn with drought-resistant plants - the more plants the better, as vegetation reduces run-off.

Plant trees and shrubs as they require less care and water.

RAIN BARRELS:

Collect rain water in a barrel or any other large container. Use this water as an alternative to using a watering hose especially for new transplants, window boxes, flower pots and container gardens. Rain water is better for your plants as it does not contain any chlorine and is the right temperature. Keep your rain barrel covered with a screen to prevent mosquitoes from breeding.

Water your indoor plants with water from a rain barrel.

Use extendable drain spouts after the rain barrel is full to re-direct water into flower beds and various parts of the lawn to increase watering capacity.



CAR WASHING:

You can waste about 400 litres (100 gallons) of water by using a running water hose. Use a bucket with a sponge, then rise quickly with a trigger nozzle on your water hose. This will save you about 300 litres (75 gallons) of water.

SIDEWALKS & DRIVEWAYS:

Cleaning sidewalks and driveways with a broom saves about 200 litres (50 gallons) of water. Use a trigger nozzle on the hose for difficult spots.

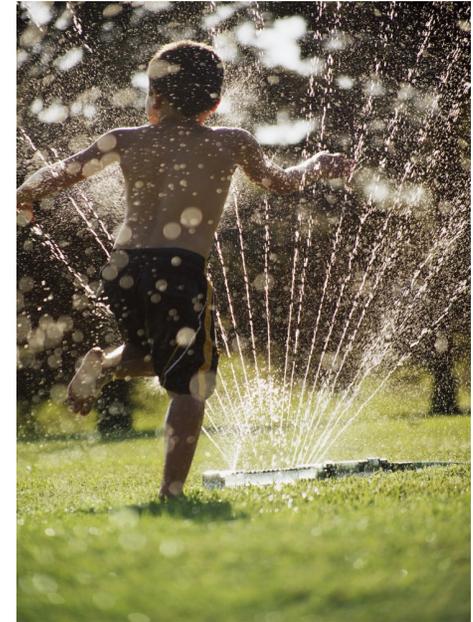
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***Dauphin Communities
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