

water smart yard

15 TIPS FOR A WATER SMART YARD

During the growing season, outdoor water use can increase by as much as 50% — which means a hit on your pocketbook. And using water requires electricity, so reducing your water use can reduce smog and carbon dioxide emissions

TURN THE PAGE
FOR SOME PROVEN
WAYS TO HELP
REDUCE THE
WATER YOU USE
IN YOUR YARD



KEEP IT SIMPLE

How to save water & money by keeping it simple

- Don't let rainwater go to waste. Disconnect your downspout from the sewer system and instead, direct it into your garden or lawn. It saves water and also takes some of the strain off our sewer systems.
- Get a rain barrel. The water that funnels from your downspout into a rain barrel is there when you need it. You'll use less household water and reduce run-off during storms. That means less pollution from the sewer system entering our waterways.
- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean your driveway, pathway, sidewalk, deck or patio. You'll save up to 300 litres of water every time — and it's good exercise! You'll also help keep pollutants that accumulate on driveways and roads from getting flushed into our streams and rivers.
- Find a car wash that recycles its water. This saves water and also keeps harmful pollutants from ending up in our streams, rivers and lakes.
- If you wash your car yourself, use a bucket of water. Or if you use a hose, turn off the nozzle while you soap up the car. It could save more than a bathtub's worth of water.
- Covering your pool when it's not in use reduces evaporation. Without a cover, more than half the water can evaporate over a year.

Use a broom instead of a hose to clean your driveway



THE RIGHT STUFF

How to save water & money with sprinklers & hoses

- Choose the right sprinkler for the size of your lawn. You don't need to water your driveway and sidewalk as well!
- For a small lawn, use a stationary sprinkler — it penetrates deep into the soil. For large lawns, pulsing sprinklers provide the best coverage. Oscillating (fan) sprinklers often miss patches of grass and lose water to evaporation.
- Install a timer on your outdoor tap. It will save water, time and money, and will keep your grass healthy by preventing over-watering.
- Let your grass “sleep.” Does your lawn turn a little yellowish or brown during hot, dry weather? Don't worry — this is called dormancy, and it's how your lawn protects itself against the heat. Let your lawn rest. This means no watering, no mowing and no foot traffic. Your lawn will awaken when it rains.
- Don't use a sprinkler for garden plants. Plants need water on their root zones, not on their leaves, which is where most water from a sprinkler lands. Instead, hand-water or use a soaker hose.

For large lawns use **pulsing sprinklers**



LOVE YOUR LAWN

How to save water & money & still keep your lawn healthy

- Water early in the morning. Hot, sunny or windy days mean water evaporates more quickly. And avoid evening watering — your lawn stays wet all night, which can cause plant disease.
- Don't over-water. Your lawn only needs 2.5 cm (1 in.) of water a week, including rainfall, to stay healthy.
- Keep an eye on the weather. Most weeks, rain gives your lawn all the water it requires — and rain is free! A rain gauge will help you figure out how much, if any, extra water you should use.
- Water deeply. Frequent light sprinkling leads to shallow roots, weak grass and ideal conditions for germination of weed seeds.

Your lawn only
needs **2.5 cm**
of water a week

CleanWater Foundation

The Clean Water Foundation is a Canadian non-profit organization dedicated to engaging individuals in actions that preserve, protect and improve our water.
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