



Phone: 520.399.1105

725 West Via Rancho Sahuarita Blvd.
Sahuarita, AZ 85629

As the temperatures rise during the summer months, our consumption of water increases dramatically. We swim in pools, water our lawns, wash our cars, and cool off with sprinklers. Listed below are some outdoor and indoor water conservation ideas that are simple and easy to follow. Let's all do our part and practice year-round wise water use to maximize our existing water resources and the existing infrastructure used to provide a safe and reliable water supply.

Outdoor Water Conservation

Prioritize your Summertime watering needs outdoors

Now is a great time for you to prioritize the watering needs of all outdoor plants and trees. Take the time to determine which area of your yard needs the most water.

Newly planted trees, shrubs, lawns

Newly planted trees, shrubs, and lawns should receive the first priority when it comes to determining the need for water. On automatic sprinkler systems, install a moisture sensor, which will automatically cut off the system if it should begin to rain. It is best to water early in the morning when temperatures and wind speed are the lowest. This reduces losses from evaporation. Mulching also reduces losses from evaporation and keeps the soil and roots cool.

Young trees and shrubs

Young trees and shrubs do not have as developed root systems as their older counterparts and will require more water as a result. During severe drought conditions, plants and trees up to six years of age may require additional watering during this time. Established trees and shrubs require one to two inches of water every 10 to 14 days during dry periods.

Flowers, gardens, and older Plants

Most flower and vegetable gardens will require watering to stay productive. Mulching can help to retain additional moisture in the soil and around the roots. Most well-established trees and shrubs can withstand a prolonged period without rain or watering. Far more plants die from over-watering than under-watering.

Outdoor pools

Cover an outdoor pool when not in use. Clean the pool filter regularly.

Capture and recycle rainwater

Place rain barrels or buckets beneath your downspouts. 1,000 sq. ft. of roof surface will collect 420 gallons of water in every inch of rainfall. You can use rainwater for outdoor plants and trees or to wash your car.

Redirect water from downspouts

Channel storm water across lawns and into garden beds away from your house; consider "Rainscaping" by establishing a watershed-friendly garden, which will use storm water to thrive and create beauty around your home, school, or office.

Mulch, mulch, mulch

Mulching helps to slow the evaporation of moisture from the soil and keeps the soil and roots cool. It also protects the soil and roots from events such as freezing. Try to stick with organic mulches that slowly break down and add organic matter to the soil.





Indoor Wise Water Use Ideas

Check pipes and faucets for leaks

Even small leaks can waste significant amounts of water. Water leaks are not only a waste of water, but also of the energy needed to heat the water.

Turn off the water when brushing teeth or shaving

This is a hard habit to break. We all are guilty of letting the water run while we brush our teeth. Yet, collectively we could save thousands of gallons of water a day if we just turned off the faucet until we need it.

Take showers instead of baths

Baths use more water than a typical shower. If your shower has a single hand control or shut off valve, turn off the flow while soaping or shampooing.

Install low flow showerheads and faucet aerators

Look for ones that use no more than 2.5 gallons per minute at maximum flow (for showerheads) and 2.2 gallons per minute maximum flow (for faucets).

Check the toilet for leaks

Leaks inside a toilet can waste up to 200 gallons of water per day. Toilet leaks can be detected by taking the tank cover off and placing several drops of food coloring in the tank. You have a leak if you see the coloring in the bowl after a few minutes. Most leaks involve the rubber flapper or shut off valve found in the tank. Repair as soon as possible.

Don't use the toilet as a wastebasket

Many of us throw a piece of paper, tissues, or other small items into the toilet, instead of a wastebasket. Place a wastebasket next to your toilet to avoid this situation in the future.

Run the dishwasher and washing machine only when full

Dishwashers and washing machines use a tremendous amount of water. Practice wise water techniques by making the most of the water that you use.

Use the garbage disposal less often to conserve water

We usually let the water run while we dispose of food down the dishwasher. Use it only when necessary.

Fill the sink with water to pre-rinse dishes before putting them in the dishwasher

This is a great way to conserve water. You are not only saving water by eliminating the process of rinsing dishes before you place them in the dishwasher but also reducing the load on your dishwasher (and perhaps preventing dishes from being washed again).

