

**Presented by the City of Lakewood
Sustainability Division**



Lakewood
Sustainability

Residential Outdoor Water Resource Guide



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Lakewood's 2025 Outdoor Water Conservation Program

The Residential Outdoor Water Resource Guide is intended to help Lakewood residents realize the benefits of outdoor water conservation. Water conservation is essential to ensure Lakewood remains a vibrant community for generations to come.

Look for Dewd the Water Droplet for extra outdoor water conservation tips throughout the guide!



Outdoor Water Conservation

Less than 1% of water on the earth is available for our consumption. The EPA reports that Americans' outdoor water use accounts for roughly 8 billion gallons of water daily. About 50% of this daily use is for outdoor irrigation. This usage contributes to the growing demand for water despite the inability for the water supply to grow with it. It is vital that we become more conscious of our water usage. The benefits of water conservation comes in all shapes and sizes.

Outdoor water conservation has many **benefits**.



Increase curb appeal



Save money

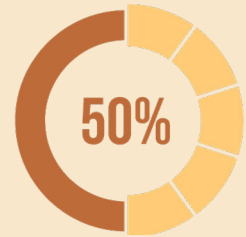


Save time



Protect the environment

Outdoor water use accounts for **50%** of daily household use in the Denver metro area.



Water usage worldwide has **increased** 1% every year since 1980.



In 2021, Lakewood households consumed a total of 5.65 billion gallons of water, enough to fill **8,555** Olympic-size pools.

Every **\$1** invested in your home landscape yields a **135%** return in home value.



WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

HOW TO

PLANT IN COLORADO

By converting to a low-water landscape, you can conserve water, save money, and provide habitats for wildlife.



CHOOSE TO XERISCAPE

Xeriscaping means planting drought-resistant plants to save water and create a beautiful landscape. See page 6 for tips!



ADD MULCH

Mulches like bark chips and gravel help to retain soil moisture and control weeds.



Did you know the City of Lakewood Forestry team offers [free mulch to residents](#)?



PLANT FOR POLLINATORS

Avoid using neonicotinoids and systemic pesticides and plant bee-friendly species to create [a safe, healthy environment for pollinators](#).



WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR LAWN

Efficient lawn care is important for boosting soil health, improving air quality, and saving money.



RAISE YOUR MOWER BLADE

Keep your grass more than 3 inches tall to encourage deeper root growth and better moisture retention.

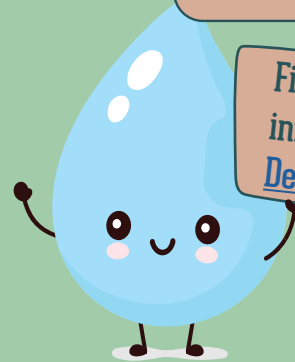


AVOID OVERFERTILIZING

Choose phosphorus-free fertilizer to keep lawns green and water blue. Overfertilization can damage plants.

Aeration is the process of poking holes into soil so that air, water, and nutrients can reach plant roots more easily.

Find more information on [DenverWater.org](https://denverwater.org).



AERATE IN THE SPRING OR FALL

Aerating during the spring or fall allows the soil to absorb the most moisture during these rainy seasons.

WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

HOW TO

WATER YOUR YARD

It is important to water your yard the right way to conserve water resources and protect the environment.



INSTALL EFFICIENT SPRINKLERS

Use water-efficient technology like drip irrigation, rotating sprinkler nozzles, rain sensors, and smart irrigation controllers.



WATER AT THE RIGHT TIME

Water during cooler hours (6 P.M.-10 A.M.) and avoid sprinkling on windy days.



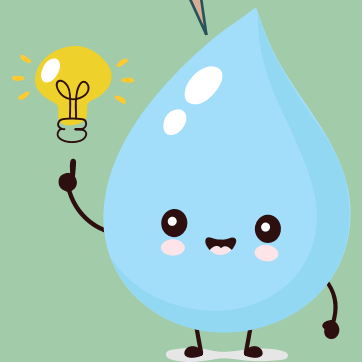
PREVENT WATER RUNOFF

Only apply as much water as the soil can absorb. Use the “[cycle and soak](#)” method.

Adjust to the weather with a smart controller or rain sensor! Check out [Denver Water](#) for more tips!

CHECK FOR LEAKS

Check your irrigation system and hoses every spring before using to correct leaks and [maximize water efficiency](#).



DON'T WATER THE SIDEWALK

Adjust your sprinkler heads to prevent watering the pavement. Water runoff is wasteful and may carry harmful chemicals.



WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

HOW TO XERISCAPE IN COLORADO



How Do I Get Started?



1. Identify non-functional areas of your lawn.

Are there areas that are only ornamental and not used for recreation? Consider xeriscaping these areas.

3. Determine how to remove your lawn.

Will you hire a contractor or DIY? Will you physically remove your lawn or use sheet mulching?

2. Set a budget.

Consider the costs of plants, soil, mulch, irrigation equipment, and any professional design or installation assistance you'll need.

4. Design your garden!

Use a template from resources like [PlantSelect.org](https://www.plantselect.org) or the [Colorado Native Plant Society](https://coloradonativesociety.org) to select native and Colorado-friendly plants.

Xeriscaping Near You!



Need some inspiration? Visit the City of Lakewood's [demonstration gardens](#)!

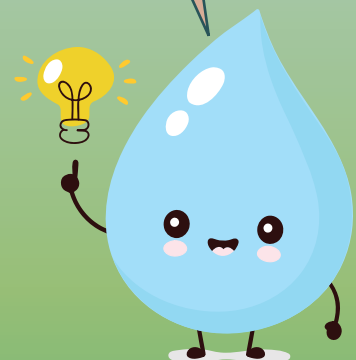


KENDRICK LAKE PARK



O'KANE PARK

ColoradoScaping is xeriscaping specifically for Colorado's semi-arid climate. Learn more from [Denver Water](#)!



WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

HOW TO

DETERMINE YOUR OUTDOOR WATER USE

Most water meters measure household use on a monthly basis, but it can be difficult to know how much water is being used indoors vs. outdoors. Here's a quick and easy way to measure how much water is used for outdoor activities.

To Calculate Your Monthly Outdoor Water Use:

1. Look at your past 12 months of water bills.
2. Take an average of your total monthly water consumption between May and October (5 months), when outdoor irrigation typically occurs.
3. Take an average of your total monthly water consumption between November and April (7 months), when water is primarily used only indoors.
4. The difference between the two averages is your monthly outdoor water use when irrigation occurs.

Here's an example:

MONTH	AVERAGE MONTHLY WATER USE [GALLONS]
January	3,000
February	2,000
March	3,000
April	3,000
May	5,000
June	6,000
July	8,000
August	8,000
September	7,000
October	4,000
November	3,000
December	3,000

May–September average: 6,800 gallons/month

October–April average: 3,000 gallons/month

Average outdoor water use: $6,800 - 3,000 = 3,800$ gallons/month



Denver Water recommends a maximum of 12 gallons of water usage per square foot!



WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



COLORADO WATERWISE

Colorado WaterWise addresses the state's water challenges by improving water efficiency through diverse community connections, innovative solutions, and valuable member resources.

DENVER WATER

Established in 1918, the utility is a public agency funded by water rates and new tap fees, not taxes. It is Colorado's oldest and largest water utility.

INDOOR WATER EFFICIENCY

On average, Denver Water's single-family residential customers use about 50 gallons per person per day inside the home. How does your family stack up?

WYLAND FOUNDATION WATER FOOTPRINT

This free tool, available in both English and Spanish, illustrates how everyday actions—from washing dishes to watering the lawn to buying groceries—impact water use.

CSU LOW WATER PLANTING LIST

Published by the Colorado Native Plant Society, this is a native planting guide for the Front Range and foothills regions of Colorado.

U.S. EPA LAWN CARE TIPS

Access resources online to find out more about the health of your local waterways and participate in community efforts to make your environment healthier and safer.

Lakewood's 2025 Outdoor Water Conservation Program

In Partnership With
RESOURCE
central
CONSERVATION MADE EASY

Save water and money with the City's Outdoor Water Conservation Program! In partnership with Resource Central, the City is offering several incentives to help you reduce water use and transform your yard into a beautiful and vibrant Colorado native landscape. Quantities are extremely limited and are available first-come, first-served.



1.

Garden In A Box

\$25 discount on Garden In A Box kits, with an additional discount for income-qualified households. These professionally designed kits include several perennial plants and easy instructions for planting and watering.



2.

Slow the Flow Evaluations

Free on-site sprinkler system evaluation to help you save money and water.



3.

Lawn Replacement \$750 Discount

\$750 credit toward lawn removal services or Garden In A Box kits with turf removal commitment.

For more information, visit
www.lakewood.org/outdoorwater



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Questions?
Email sustainability@lakewood.org

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