

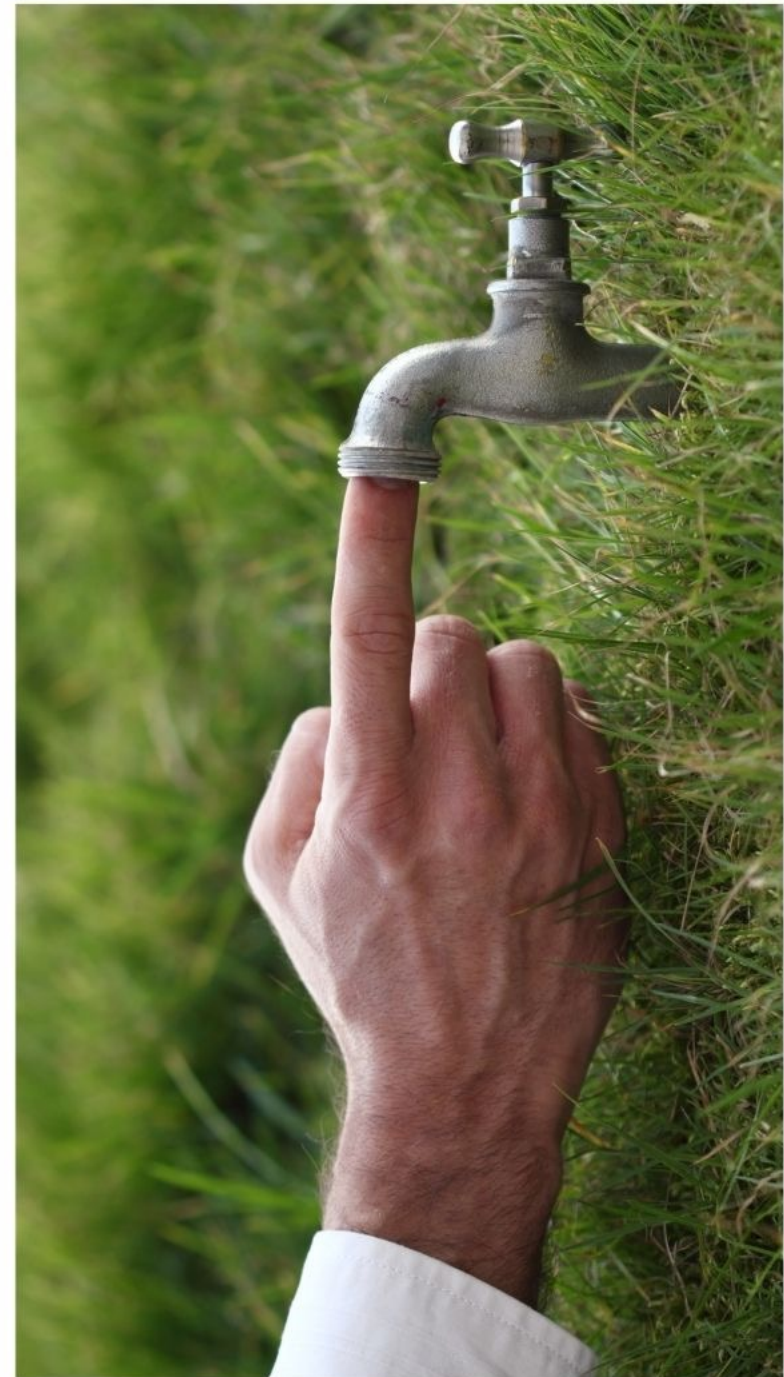
LET'S TALK ABOUT WATER

# WATER CONSERVATION TIPS AND TRICKS



---

Todd Ballard-Colorado State Extension  
Tanya Ishikawa-Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership



With limited (and projected to be diminishing) water supplies and increasing water demands due to a growing populations, it is critical to reduce water use.



**There are steps that everyone  
can take to help reduce the  
amount of water used**

---



# Do A Landscape Inventory

Determine how much water each type of plant or tree needs



---

Your local CSU Extension Office can help determine how much water certain plants and trees need



# A HEALTHY START Don't forget about soil!

Local soils are  
not good at  
water retention

- Healthy soil retains water better
- Add compost and other soil improvements

Roatcap Wash



Shavano #1



Shavano #2







# NATIVE PLANTS

One of the best ways to conserve water in your yard is to plant only native, acclimated, and drought-resistant plants.



# Xeriscape = ~~Zeroscape~~







# KNOW WHEN TO WATER

It is generally best to water in the early morning or in the evening, as the sun goes down. Program your sprinklers to come on during these times to prevent the evaporation of water due to the heat of the day.

---





# SYSTEM TUNE UP

Make sure your irrigation system is in tip-top shape. Check for leaks, breakage, and clogging. Are your sprinklers spraying where they should be?

---





# AVOID WATERING SIDEWALKS

For sloped yards, consider terraced landscaping to hold water.

---



# Hydro-Zones



Arrange plants and trees into "hydro-zones" depending how much sun/shade they need as well as soil type. Then adjust your irrigation and water schedule to best match each zone.

## Step On It



**Just because it is hot outside doesn't mean your lawn needs water. A sure way to tell--step on it, if it springs back, no water is needed!**



# Rain Barrels in Colorado (2016 law)

- Rain barrels can only be installed at single-family households and multi-family households with four (4) or fewer units.
- A maximum of two (2) rain barrels can be used at each household.
- The combined storage of the 2 rain barrels cannot exceed 110 gallons.





- Rain barrels can only be used to capture rainwater from rooftop downspouts and the captured water must be used on the same property from where it was captured, for only outdoor purposes.
- Rain barrel water cannot be used for drinking or other indoor water uses.
- More information:  
<https://extension.colostate.edu/topic-areas/natural-resources/rainwater-collection-colorado-6-707/>



**Use a mulch  
or ground cover to  
help hold in water**



**WEEDS  
SUCK  
(and clog  
and crowd)**







# Water Conservation in Your Home

---

The following are some ways you can save water within your own home



**100 years ago, the average person only used 5 gallons of water a day. Now, due to the availability of treated water, people use 40–70 gallons!**

---



## By The Numbers



Brushing your teeth: 2-5 gallons



Wash the car: 50 gallons



Use the dishwasher: 8-15 gallons



Flush the toilet: 1.5-4 gallons  
per flush



Take shower or bath: 17-24 gallons



Run the washing machine:  
35-50 gallons per load

# Consumer Usage Fact



The bulk of consumer water usage is in the form of discretionary use-- activities like washing a car, filling a pool.



Use an auto-shut off faucet or valve





## TOP TIPS



## SAVE WATER



Use a low-flow shower head or faucet



Install an ultra low-flush toilet



Take shorter showers/baths



Update to highly efficient appliances



Use auto-shut off valves or faucets



Turn off faucets when not in use

**Please don't let pollutants run  
into water....**

**protect the precious little water  
that we have!**





