

**Birmingham
Spring 2016 Newsletter**

Outdoor Water Conservation

Did you know as much as 50 percent of the water used outdoors is wasted from inefficient watering methods? The summer season is the time of the year where we consume the most water through outdoor usage. We have all been told to turn off faucets when we brush our teeth and to regularly inspect indoor fixtures for any leaks as part of water conservation initiatives. Similarly, to conserve outdoor water usage, there are a few steps you can take to use water efficiently.

WHEN: The optimal time to water lawns and other plants is in the early morning or evening. Avoid watering in the middle of the day when much of the water will evaporate before hydrating any plants.

HOW OFTEN: Be conscious of the local weather conditions and time your watering system accordingly. A rule of thumb to go by is that lawns only need up to one inch of water per week.

HOW LONG: Pooling water is a major indicator that overwatering is occurring. Turn off sprinklers if water begins to pool and keep in mind that the majority of plants use less water than turf grass.

WHAT ELSE: Alternative methods to watering plants are available. Consider capturing rain water through the use of a rain barrel or cistern. These water harvesting techniques not only conserve water, but can also reduce your water bill.

For more information on outdoor water conservation, please visit the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) website at www.epa.gov.



Source: epa.gov