

Friday, 26 May 2017



Serving Glen Rock, Midland Park, Ridgewood and Wyckoff

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## Water Conservation Ordinance Tips, FAQ's, & More



### **Attention: Ridgewood Water Customers**

Stage II restrictions (2 days per week irrigation) were imposed in June 2016 and are still in effect in Glen Rock, Midland Park, Ridgewood and Wyckoff. Without these restrictions, the use of drinking water for irrigation will continue increasing toward levels that are unsustainable regardless of drought conditions. To reverse this trend, an ordinance was approved by the Village Council on April 12, 2017 to amend the provisions governing Watering and Water Emergencies in the Village of Ridgewood Code. Changes include:

- Making 2 days per week irrigation permanent year round,
- Restricting irrigation hours to limit losses to evaporation,
- Restricting irrigation using private wells to 2 days a week,
- Adding new exemptions, including drip irrigation and smart controllers.

This ordinance became effective on May 2, 2017 and applies only to Ridgewood, but it is expected that the Boroughs of Glen Rock and Midland Park, and the Township of Wyckoff will enact similar rules as they have in the past. Below is the approved ordinance. Questions can be directed to Ridgewood Water at 201-670-5521 or [cswater@ridgewoodnj.net](mailto:cswater@ridgewoodnj.net).

[NEW ORDINANCE](#)

[SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE](#)

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[Smart Controller Exemption Application](#)

[New Landscaping & Chemical Treatment Application](#)



131 North Maple Avenue, Ridgewood, NJ 07451  
201-670-5520

TOP ▲



## SUMMARY OF NEW IRRIGATION ORDINANCE



IRRIGATION CONDITION/METHOD	CODE CITATION	HAND HELD	====CONVENTIONAL====		DRIP MICRO	SMART
		HAND HELD HOSE	HOSE END PORTABLE SPRINKLER	AUTOMATIC IN-GROUND	DRIP/MICRO IRRIGATION	SMART CONTROLLER EXEMPTION
✓ = CONDITION APPLIES		(MANUAL)	(MANUAL)	(AUTOMATIC)	(AUTOMATIC)	(AUTOMATIC)
NON-GOVERNMENTAL PROPERTIES: ODD ADDRESSES: TUESDAY & SATURDAY	269-48A(1)		✓	✓		
NON-GOVERNMENTAL PROPERTIES: EVEN ADDRESSES: WEDNESDAY & SUNDAY	269-48A(1)		✓	✓		
GOVERNMENTAL PROPERTIES: MONDAY & FRIDAY	269-48A(2)		✓	✓		
ANY DAY	269-48A(3)	✓			✓	✓
NO IRRIGATION 10AM-6PM	269-48D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
ONLY 3AM - 7AM	269-48D			✓		
RAIN SENSOR APPLICABLE (AUTOMATIC)	269-48E			✓	✓	✓

4/17/2017



**Ridgewood  
Water**

*Serving Glen Rock, Midland Park, Ridgewood and Wyckoff*

# WATERTALK

**In this Issue:**

- Water Use and Conservation**
- Where Does Your Tap Water Come From**
- Smart Irrigation**
- Rain Barrels**
- Service Sentry**

**Spring/Summer  
2009  
Newsletter**

A message from Ridgewood Water

## Water Use and Conservation

*Ridgewood Water is proud to introduce this newsletter. Our plan is to continue sending newsletters with your water bills periodically to advise our customers on water-related issues.*

**How much water are you using?**

Below is a list of the average amount of water commonly used around the house unless you have water-efficient devices/appliances.

**Toilet**  
3 to 5 gallons per flush

**Shower**  
30 to 40 gallons

**Washing machine**  
40 to 50 gallons/load

**Lawn Watering**  
5 to 20 gallons per minute (with an average time of 1 hour, that's up to **1,200 gallons!**)

**Dishwasher**  
10 to 15 gallons/load

**Tip**  
Toilets can leak up to 500 gallons a day. To check for toilet leaks, put a few drops of food coloring in the toilet tank. If the color appears in the bowl (without flushing), you have a leak.

**Fact**  
Studies have shown that most people over-water their lawns and gardens in summertime, therefore

Ridgewood Water (RW) is a municipally-owned and operated water utility that serves over 20,000 customers (about 60,000 people) located primarily within Glen Rock, Midland Park, Ridgewood and Wyckoff (an approximate 17 square mile area). RW's source of water supply is derived from about 50 deep wells located within these four towns. The wells are drilled deep into the rock aquifer providing water that is naturally high in quality and abundant in minerals. Ridgewood Water also has interconnections with United Water New Jersey and the Borough of Hawthorne.

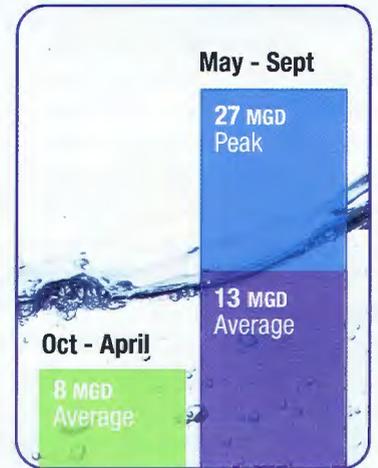
We have dedicated this newsletter to **Water Conservation**. As we would like our customers to make water conservation a part of their everyday lives, we especially ask our customers to take a good look at the amount of water being used in and around their homes

during the summer months and establish smart water-using habits. Water saving tips are outlined in the conservation section of our website at <http://water.ridgewoodnj.net>.

From October through April the average water demand for RW customers is about 8 million gallons per day (MGD), but from May through September the demand could rise to almost 27 MGD, with an average of about 13 MGD. This excess water usage is primarily due to lawn irrigation.

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) requires all public water supply utilities to maintain a water conservation and drought management plan. As a result, and in order to mitigate the excess water use during the summer, Ridgewood Water imposes water restrictions that are in effect from May 1 through September 30. These Stage I restrictions provide for

**Annual Water Use Trends**  
Million gallons per day (MGD)



alternate day watering. Restrictions have the potential to become more severe if temperatures increase significantly and average rainfall decreases. Details of our water restrictions are available in the conservation section of our website at <http://water.ridgewoodnj.net>.



**WHERE DOES YOUR TAP WATER COME FROM?**

Do you know where your drinking water

comes from? What would you say if someone told

supplied by Ridgewood Water is exclusively groundwater with the exception of the interconnection with United Water. The groundwater is retrieved out of the rock aquifer via deep wells that have been drilled into this aquifer. The Ridgewood Water wells are typically about 300 ft deep. Groundwater, which starts out as rain or snow, slowly seeps into the ground and finds its way into the aquifer. Aquifers are almost entirely dependant on rainwater for replenishment or recharge. In periods of dry weather the amount of recharge to the aquifer is diminished, leading to reduced levels of accessible water. An increase in paved surface area may also reduce the amount of water that could be replenished to the aquifer.

Since a majority of the water supplied by

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**Fact**  
Studies have shown that most people over-water their lawns and gardens in summertime, therefore wasting water and money. For our service area, lawns only need about 1 inch of water per week.

**Questions?**  
Call our customer service center at 201-670-5520 or visit our website at <http://water.ridgewoodnj.net>

**Ridgewood Water**  
131 N. Maple Avenue  
Ridgewood, NJ 07451

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## WHERE DOES YOUR TAP WATER COME FROM?

Do you know where your drinking water

comes from? What would you say if someone told you that it is possible to get water out of rock? The water that is supplied to you by Ridgewood Water actually comes from the underlying bedrock, more specifically the rock aquifer. Aquifers are underground layers of water-bearing permeable rock or unconsolidated material. The rock formation of an aquifer consists of small spaces or fractures that are capable of retaining water. The underlying bedrock in our area is the Ridgewood/Brunswick Shale and Sandstone formation.

Water that comes from an aquifer is called groundwater. Water derived from streams, rivers and lakes is known as surface water. All of the water

supplied by Ridgewood Water is exclusively groundwater with the exception of the interconnection with United Water. The groundwater is retrieved out of the rock aquifer via deep wells that have been drilled into this aquifer. The Ridgewood Water wells are typically about 300 ft deep. Groundwater, which starts out as rain or snow, slowly seeps into the ground and finds its way into the aquifer. Aquifers are almost entirely dependant on rainwater for replenishment or recharge. In periods of dry weather the amount of recharge to the aquifer is diminished, leading to reduced levels of accessible water. An increase in paved surface area may also reduce the amount of water that could be replenished to the aquifer.

Since a majority of the water supplied by Ridgewood Water is from groundwater, and due to a combination of capacity constraints of the aquifer during dry periods and high demands during the summer, Ridgewood Water imposes mandatory water restrictions on lawn irrigation.

Knowing where your water comes from and how it gets replenished tells a great deal about the delicate balance of rainfall and our groundwater source. Ridgewood Water customers should keep this in mind when using water in and around the home, especially during summer months. **Conservation begins with you.** For conservation tips or information about water restrictions visit our website at <http://water.ridgewoodnj.net>.

# SMART IRRIGATION

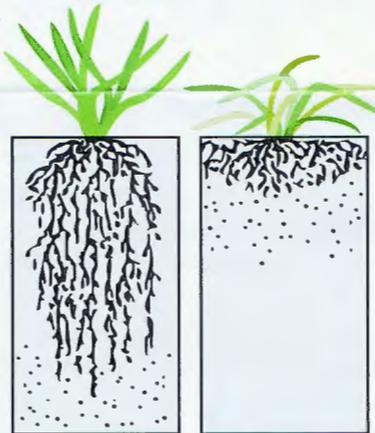
Overwatering with an automatic sprinkler system is the number one mistake that homeowners make when it comes to lawn care. Most irrigated lawns receive twice as much water than is actually needed making lawns more susceptible to fungal disease, not to mention the waste of water and money. **Turf grass typically only needs about 1 inch of water per week.** Below are 'smart' irrigation tips worth considering that include landscaping practices and new technology to conserve water and optimize lawn health.

A simple way to determine how much water is being applied to your lawn is to place a few cups or cans out in the lawn before watering and measure the average amount of water that is collected. Multiply the collected amount by the number of times your sprinkler runs per week. Use this information to adjust your sprinkler system so that you supply your lawn with 1 inch of water per week.

Install a **rain sensor** to your existing sprinkler system. This inexpensive technology saves precious water resources and reduces your annual water costs by preventing a

system from running during or after a rain event. Don't be caught again watering your lawn while it is raining.

**Adjust watering time and frequency** based on the season and weather conditions. Lawns generally require less water in the cooler spring and fall months. Less frequent but



Courtesy University of Minnesota Extension

longer watering periods promote deeper root systems that are more resilient in drought conditions. See illustration above.

**Smart Irrigation Systems** control the sprinkler system by automatically adjusting the frequency and duration of water applied to a lawn

based on **evapotranspiration** (ET) rates. ET is the relationship of evaporation of water from soil and water loss from plants known as transpiration. The ET rate determines the amount of water a plant needs. Many existing systems can be upgraded to take advantage of "Smart Irrigation Technology." The South Jersey Resource Conservation and Development Council (SJRCDC) posts a suggested watering schedule based on our area's ET rate at [www.sjrccd.org/public/haworth.html](http://www.sjrccd.org/public/haworth.html). It is available between May 1 and September 30.

Water saving drip systems, smart irrigation controllers, and water harvesting systems such as rain barrels are environmentally-responsible watering alternatives that save natural resources and cut your landscaping costs.

A professional **irrigation audit** can help ensure each zone is appropriately watered at its optimal time and duration depending on sun, shade, type of soil, etc. The same watering times should almost never apply to all zones in a system.

Finally, **routine maintenance** goes a long way. Check your system for leaks, clogged heads and filters, and watering pattern to ensure no hard surfaces, such as pavements, are receiving water. Plant growth may block sprinkler heads and reduce system efficiency.

SERVICE SENTRY

**Who maintains your water service pipe?**

Many homeowners are unaware that they are

financially responsible for maintaining the water service pipe between the curb line and the water meter. If your service line breaks, it can be a disruptive and costly problem, not to mention a waste of water.

**Average repairs can cost \$2,000 to \$3,000 and are not covered by most homeowners' insurance policies.**

Service Sentry is designed to protect you from the problems associated with a broken water service line for only \$12.50 per quarter (most single family homes). We'll repair your water service line and restore your lawn and sidewalk promptly and efficiently.

**For more details call our customer service center at 201-670-5520 or visit our website at <http://water.ridgewoodnj.net>.**

Water is such a vital natural resource, yet it is commonplace to treat it as a waste product as our clean water supply dwindles during the summer months. Rainwater typically flows from roof tops through rain gutters and finds its way into the streets and gutters, picking up pollution and contributing to area flooding and erosion of streams and rivers. A simple item that anyone can use is a rain barrel, which collects rainwater from roof gutters to use for watering gardens and lawns. By

## Rain Barrels

rerouting rain gutters into a collection system, a homeowner can harvest a valuable resource, reduce spread of pollution and save money all at the same time! Use of rainwater to irrigate will help reduce the demand on the

water that is contained within the rock aquifer, which can be very limited during the summer months.

Rain barrels are available in a variety of shapes, sizes and styles to meet your aesthetic and functional needs.

**Some of the following features and accessories make a rain barrel easy to use.**

- ▶ A cover or lid, to prevent mosquito's from breeding.
- ▶ An overflow (hose) as large as the inflow (hose or roof leader) that directs excess water away from your foundation
- ▶ A filter that will keep debris out of the rain barrel.
- ▶ A diverter that allows you to keep water out of the barrel in winter months.
- ▶ A spigot or housing for a hose attachment.



*A special thanks to the following people for contributing to this newsletter:*

*Naomi Gamorra  
Glen Rock Environmental  
Commission - Member*

*Robert Schucker  
Certified Landscape  
Professional*

*Ed Schwartz  
Ridgewood Environmental  
Advisory Committee -  
Chairperson*

# Only Tap Water Delivers Quality of Life

*Tap water is more than a convenience; it is central to our way of life.*

If only the faucet could talk to us. It might remind us how often we turn to it for safe water to drink, wash our clothes, prepare our food, and provide us with the everyday quality of life we enjoy.

Tap water is so intricately part of our lives that we can hardly imagine a day without tap water.

Without tap water . . .

- ▶ How would we cook, wash dishes and clothes, or water plants and landscapes?
- ▶ How would we bathe? Brush our teeth?
- ▶ How many businesses would have to suspend operations or relocate entirely?
- ▶ How would our institutions—from hospitals to firehouses to schools—function?



*“When the well’s dry, we know the worth of water.”*

Benjamin Franklin

## Did you know?

Only 3% of the tap water we use on a typical day is used for drinking. Most of the rest goes for outdoor watering, bathroom uses, and clothes and dish washing.

Americans tap into 40 billion gallons of tap water every day. Total water use in a typical single-family home is 101 gallons per person, per day. Most people drink about a half-gallon of water per day, which includes water used in juice, coffee, and other beverages. Your water supplier also pumps water to supply industry, commercial and retail outlets, medical centers, restaurants, agricultural facilities, and schools.

# Only Tap Water **Delivers**

As your water provider, we're constantly monitoring your water to make sure that it's safe and available 24/7. We make sure that there's an adequate supply of water to meet community needs.

We carefully treat water to remove any potentially harmful contaminants. We disinfect water to make sure it's still safe when it reaches your faucet. And we maintain an elaborate underground network of mains and pipes to get it there.

We deliver more than water. We deliver public health, fire protection, support for the economy, and the overall quality of life we enjoy. Our job is to ensure that your water keeps flowing not only today, but well into the future. It's all part of our commitment to serve you and everyone in our community.



# IS YOUR SERVICE LINE **PROTECTED?**

*Many homeowners are unaware that they are financially responsible for maintaining the water service pipe between the curb line and the water meter. If your service line starts to leak, it can be a disruptive and costly problem. Average repairs can cost \$2,000.00 to \$3,000.00 and are not covered by most homeowners' insurance policies.*

**Service Sentry** is designed to protect you from the problems associated with a leaking water service line for only \$12.50 per quarter (most single family homes). We'll repair your water service line and restore your lawn and sidewalk promptly and efficiently, no hassle or long delay. We take care of it all!

*If you're not already taking advantage of the savings and peace of mind that **Service Sentry** provides, see the enrollment form at [water.ridgewoodnj.net](http://water.ridgewoodnj.net) or call 201-670-5520.*



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# Do you know how often you turn me on?

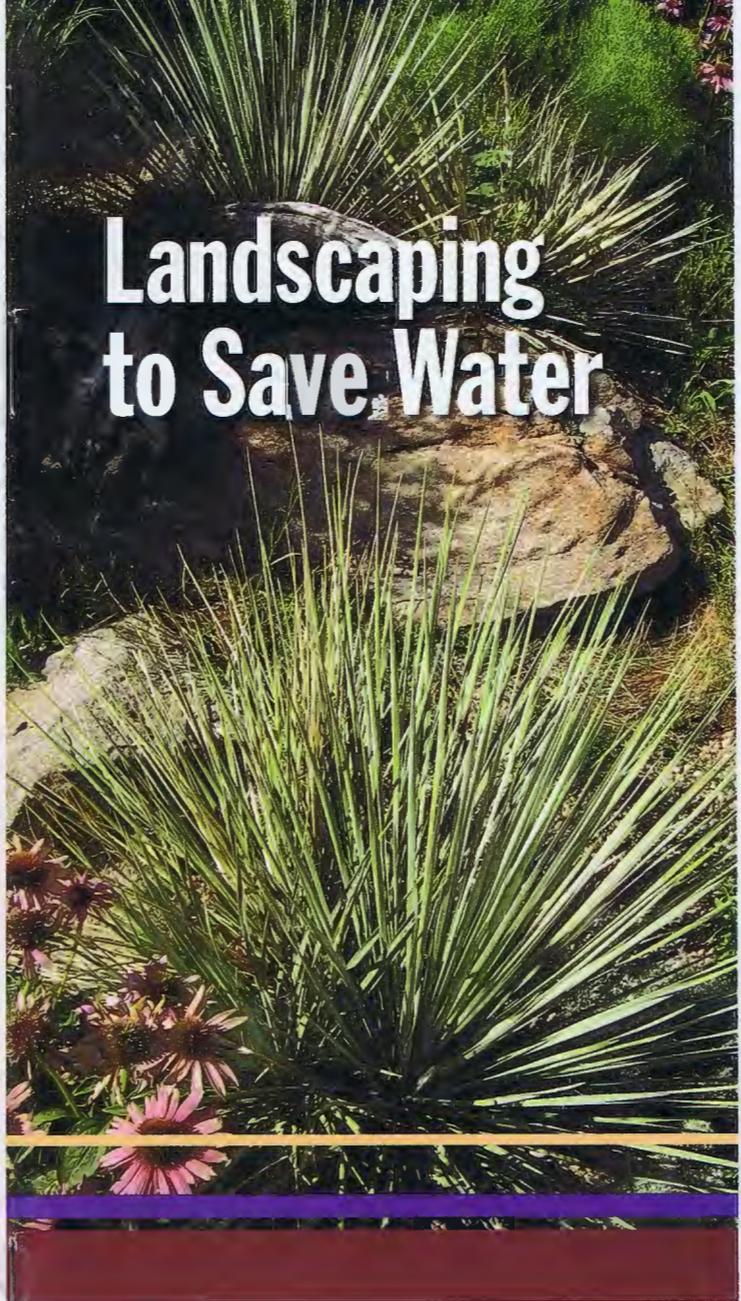


# Only Tap Water **Delivers**

# Landscaping to Save Water

If you would like more information about conservation landscaping, contact your local water provider, landscape architect, or garden shop and visit the AWWA WaterWiser ([www.waterwiser.org](http://www.waterwiser.org)) Web site for lots of good information on water conservation.

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The Authoritative Resource for Safe Drinking Water®

## *Billions of gallons*

It's estimated that an average of almost 8 BILLION gallons per day of residential water is used outdoors. More than 80 percent of this is used on landscapes, such as lawns, plants, and gardens.

Indoor residential water use in the US averages about 69 gallons per person, per day. What you use outdoors can vary a lot, depending on where you live. You may use much more than the average if you live in Arizona, and less if you live in Seattle. Higher use, as you may expect, is also seasonal.

### **LANDSCAPE WATER WASTE**

Watering inefficiency and the use of water-thirsty lawns and plants are responsible for most of the landscape water waste. In areas where the most efficient landscape strategies have been used, water usage has been reduced by 20 percent or more. You can take steps to reduce your landscape water usage without spending a lot of money. Further reductions can be made if you can limit the area to be watered and substitute low-water-use grasses and plants. Here are some specifics.

### **WATER-EFFICIENT LANDSCAPING**

Conservation landscaping uses the same basic principles used by Mother Nature. Borrowing liberally from her landscape plan, conservation landscaping groups plants into separate areas of the landscape according to their various water needs. The result is a significant reduction in the amount of water needed for plants to thrive.

The natural approach saves the most water by relying exclusively on rainfall to supply all your irrigation needs. Landscaping plants and grasses are selected that can adapt to nature's sprinkler. Although this option is

simple and inexpensive, it may result in a nontraditional appearance.

Substantially reducing the amount of water used to support a landscape design does not mean diminishing its beauty. Homeowners around the country are discovering that conservation landscaping, or Xeriscape™ (water-wise landscaping), is not just rocks and cactus! Conservation landscaping allows the creation of any style or image desired—from formal backyard gardens replete with fountains and clipped hedges to lush, domestic wildernesses using native flowers, shrubs, and grasses. Your only limit is your imagination.

There are seven principles in the Xeriscape™ (water-wise) concept that promote attractive landscapes, conserve water, and protect the environment:

*Proper planning and design*

*Soil improvement*

*Appropriate plant selection*

*Practical turf areas*

*Efficient irrigation*

*Use of mulches*

*Appropriate maintenance*



## *Proper planning and design*

When planning your water conservation landscape, consider these questions:

- Do you need a deck with lots of room for entertaining?
- Do children need a large lawn area for romping?
- Are you a backyard vegetable gardener?
- Do you need privacy? How much?
- Where are the sunny and shady areas? Note the location of existing rocks, slopes, drainage areas, structures, and plants.



With answers to these questions in hand you can proceed with your landscape plan. Make sure that you comply with any applicable conservation policies and regulations in your area. Start by evaluating your existing landscape so that you can take advantage of any water-saving features. Your master landscape plan should address both functional and nonfunctional areas. Consider grading and drainage as you design the form

of the landscape. Remember that some plants do better in the sun, others in shade. Identify water-use zones in your Xeriscape™ (water-wise landscape). Other important considerations are your maintenance preferences and your budget.

## *Soil improvement*

Do you know what type of soil you have? It could make a difference in your water bill. Certain clay soils can hold so much water that plants simply can't use it. Sandy soil is too porous to retain water and tends not to work well for most plants, so you may be wasting your efforts, as well as a lot of water.

You can improve your soil by first "aerating," tilling, or spading to loosen the soil. Add organic nutrients, such as compost, manure, sawdust, mulch, or peat moss, to make a tremendous difference in how efficiently your soil deals with water and to keep the soil loose. For newly constructed areas, a minimum of 1 inch of organic material should be tilled in to a depth of 6 to 8 inches. Greater amounts may be desired for planting beds or trees.

Soil on slopes may need special attention so that water is retained long enough to reach the root zone. This is especially important if turf grass is on a slope. A south-facing slope is a good place for your most drought-tolerant plants.

## *Appropriate plant selection*

Plant selection and placement are key elements of conservation landscaping. The use of low-water-use plants is only

one aspect of water-saving landscaping. Many medium- or high-water-use plants can be used if they are grouped together and watered together by area.

### **FULL IRRIGATION AREAS**

These areas are usually expanses of grass. Grass needs more water than other plants and should be placed only in areas that get a lot of use or are highly visible.

### **MODERATE IRRIGATION AREAS**

Plants and shrubs in these areas take advantage of some natural runoff from downspouts, driveways, and patios. For instance, an entryway using groundcovers and low- or moderate-water-use shrubs will require little watering.

### **LOW IRRIGATION AREAS**

Border areas containing low- or moderate-water-demanding flowers, shrubs, and trees provide the greatest water savings. Bubble or drip irrigation applies water directly to individual plants via small tubing or emitters. Drip irrigation saves water because only the plant's root receives water. Very little is lost to evaporation.

## *Practical turf areas*

Lawns are the biggest water users. Limit the use of turf grass to areas where the function really requires it. Areas needed for children to play or where you plan to sit to enjoy your yard are examples of practical uses that may warrant the use of turf grass. The size of these areas is usually quite small when compared to the entire area that is currently covered with turf grass. Much of the remaining area can be covered with low-water-use grasses, groundcovers, or other Xeriscape™ (water-wise) plants.



## *Efficient irrigation*

To save the most water, you must apply it only where you need it, when you need it. The equipment and timing used for irrigation can help you achieve these goals.

### **WATERING TIPS**

When and how you water can make a big difference in how much you use.

- Morning is the best time to water most lawn areas. If you sprinkle your lawn under the hot midday sun, you'll lose as much as 30 percent of your water to evaporation. When you water early, you can water less because more of the water is absorbed into your lawn. You save time and money when you water at daybreak.

Watering during the heat of the day can actually harm your lawn. "Scald" or "burn" damage occurs when hot sunlight hits water droplets that cling to leaves. The tiny droplets imitate powerful, miniature magnifying glasses.

At night, cool, moist conditions create an ideal environment for lawn diseases to develop. Grass blades watered in the morning dry off quickly, making it harder for a disease habitat to flourish.

- A light sprinkling is the least effective method of watering. In fact, it can damage your lawn. A good soaking gets to the "root" of the problem by encouraging deep, solid root growth. Lawns without deep root growth are less drought resistant and more prone to winter kill. Make sure that you don't water too long, though, since water will start to run off rather than soak in.
- You don't have to water on a set schedule. Water only when the grass or plants show signs of needing it. You may employ a soil moisture sensor to ensure proper water application. Another way to tell is to test whether or not your lawn needs a soaking. To do this, step on the grass. If it springs back up, you don't need to water. If it stays flat, it's time to water again.
- Water trees slowly, deeply, and infrequently to encourage deep rooting. Use a bucket or sprinkling can for individual plants.
- Many people use sprinklers to water their lawns. Make sure the sprinklers are properly adjusted so the grass gets the water, and that the water does not

go on sidewalks and driveways. Use a rain shutoff on your automatic sprinkler system. This will stop the sprinklers if you're not home and it rains.

- Trees, shrubs, garden flowers, and groundcovers can be watered with drip irrigation or a bubble system. This way, only the plant roots receive the water and almost no water is lost to evaporation. Soaker hoses can also be useful for plants and trees. You can collect rainwater for use later and use an automatic shutoff nozzle on your hose.
- Irrigation equipment should include heads that deliver a pattern of water close to the ground. This makes the water less likely to be lost to wind and evaporation. Special sprinklers may be used to deliver water to oddly shaped areas. Avoid oscillating sprinklers or sprinklers that deliver water in a fine spray.
- Take advantage of "natural" irrigation brought on by downspouts, patios, or valleys in your lawn by choosing for these areas plants that clearly need more water, such as tufted pansy, Irish moss, and Bishop's weed. Check with your local library or on the Internet for more ideas.

**Make sure sprinklers are watering the grass and not the sidewalk.**



## *Use of mulches*

Mulches can help save water by covering the soil around plants and trees thus reducing evaporation and letting the water soak to the roots. There are a number of possible mulch choices, but they fall into three major categories: organic, inorganic, and synthetic.

- Organic mulches include grass, wood, humus, and bark.
- Common inorganic mulches are rock, gravel, boulders, and stones.



- There are now some synthetic commercial products made from fiberglass or non-woven fabrics that can be used for mulch. Apply mulch thick enough to provide soil temperature control and perhaps to reduce weed growth. But make sure that your water can get through. After watering, lift some of the mulch to check that water is reaching the soil and not running off.

### *Appropriate maintenance*

Proper maintenance can really help a water-efficient landscape stay healthy and continue to thrive while using less water.

- The turf grass areas that you still have can be managed to reduce their water

needs: mow high (2 to 4 inches), cut when dry, aerate turf areas, and recycle the grass clippings.

All areas of the landscape can benefit from these suggestions:

- Decrease fertilizer application.
- Downspouts should be directed to help water areas around them.
- Remove weeds—they steal water.
- Only prune when necessary to help reduce water needs.
- Manage pests to reduce stress on plants and turf.
- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways, walks, and patios.
- Individual earth or decorative basins around trees and shrubs hold water until it seeps into the ground. Shallow irrigation ditches next to rows of plants serve the same purpose.

### **LEAKS, LEAKS, LEAKS**

One of the most important things you can do is to check for and repair any leaks. A small leak can waste a lot of water. A dripping faucet can waste hundreds of gallons each month!

### **SAVING WATER IS SAVING MONEY**

A water conserving landscape can save a lot of water while looking great! Saving water saves all of us money. It can save you by lowering your water usage. If we all conserve, it can save us again because it reduces the demand on the water delivery system and, potentially, the need to obtain additional water supplies. Conserving our precious natural resources is a shared responsibility. Do your part—use conservation landscaping.

# 25 Things You Can Do to Prevent Water Waste



## 9 things you can do to save water in the bathroom

1. **Check your toilets for leaks.** Put a little food coloring in your toilet tank. If, without flushing, the color begins to appear in the bowl, you have a leak that should be repaired immediately.
2. **Stop using the toilet as an ashtray or wastebasket.** Every time you flush a cigarette butt, facial tissue, or other small bits of trash, you waste five to seven gallons of water.
3. **Put plastic bottles in your toilet tank.** To cut down on water waste, put an inch or two of sand or pebbles inside each of two plastic bottles to weigh them down. Fill them with water and put them in your toilet tank, safely away from operating mechanisms. In an average home, the bottles may displace and save ten or more gallons of water a day.
4. **Take shorter showers.** Long, hot showers can waste five to ten gallons every



unnecessary minute. Limit your showers to the time it takes to soap up, wash down, and rinse off.

5. **Install water-saving showerheads or flow restrictors.** Your local hardware or plumbing supply store stocks inexpensive water-saving showerheads or restrictors that are easy to install.
6. **Take baths.** A bath in a partially filled tub uses less water than all but the shortest showers.
7. **Turn off the water after you wet your toothbrush.** There is no need to keep water pouring down the drain. Just wet your brush and fill a glass for mouth rinsing.
8. **Rinse your razor in the sink.** Fill the bottom of the sink with a few inches of warm water. This rinses your blade just as well as running water—and far less wastefully.
9. **Check faucets and pipes for leaks.** Even the smallest drip from a worn washer can waste 20 or more gallons a day. Larger leaks waste hundreds.



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e water in the  
n and laundry

Automatic dishwasher only  
ds.

Automatic washing  
only for full loads.

h dishes by hand, don't  
water running for rinsing. If  
sinks, fill one with soapy water  
rinse water. If you have only  
her washed dishes in a dish  
se them with a spray device or a  
ot water.

he faucet run while you  
tables. Just rinse them in a  
nk or a pan of clean water.

ttle of drinking water In  
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drinking water is wasteful.

faucets and pipes for  
s waste water 24 hours a  
ays a week and often can be  
just an inexpensive washer.

# 10 things you can do to save water outside

**1. Water your lawn only when it needs it.** A good way to see if your lawn needs watering is to step on the grass. If it springs back up when you move, it doesn't need water. If it stays flat, fetch the sprinkler.

**2. Deep-soak your lawn.** When you do water, do it long enough for the moisture to soak down to the roots where it does the most good. A light sprinkling can evaporate quickly and tends to encourage shallow root systems.



**3. Water during the cool parts of the day.**

Early morning generally is better than dusk because it helps prevent growth of fungus.

**4. Don't water the gutter.** Position your sprinkler so water lands on the lawn, not on paved areas. Also avoid watering on windy days.

**5. Plant drought-resistant trees and plants.** Many beautiful trees and plants thrive with far less watering than other species.

**6. Put a layer of mulch around trees and plants.** Mulch slows evaporation of moisture and discourages weed growth.



**7. Use a broom, not a hose, to clean driveways and sidewalks.**

**8. Don't run the hose while washing your car.** Clean the car with a pail of soapy water. Use the hose just for rinsing.

**9. Tell your children not to play with the hose and sprinklers.**

**10. Check for leaks in pipes, hoses, faucets, and couplings.** Leaks outside the house may not seem as bad because they're not as visible. But, they can be just as wasteful as leaks inside. Check frequently and keep them drip-free.

Fresh, clean drinking water is yours to use whenever you need it—but not to waste. It's too valuable. Remember that a little effort and a little common sense make a big difference.

Following the tips in this folder can save thousands of gallons every year in every household. That's right, thousands! So be alert. If you see water being wasted in your own home, tighten up. If you see it being wasted anywhere else, speak up.



# Use water... but use it wisely

Village of Ridgewood, NJ  
 Tuesday, April 14, 2015

## Chapter 269. WATER

### Article IV. Water Emergencies

#### § 269-48. Regulations.

[Amended 6-13-1989 by Ord. No. 2210; 6-8-1992 by Ord. No. 2370; 5-11-1998 by Ord. No. 2632; 5-8-2013 by Ord. No. 3379]  
 The following water emergency regulations are hereby adopted to become effective as set forth herein:

A. The stages shall be as follows:

Stage of Emergency Regulation	Drought Emergency Condition	User Restrictions
I	Moderate	Mandatory restriction of irrigation to Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays for properties with odd-numbered addresses and Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays for properties with even-numbered addresses. Irrigation using a hand-held hose shall be allowed at any time. No irrigation shall be allowed on Mondays except for the use of a hand-held hose.
II	Severe	Mandatory restriction of irrigation to Tuesdays and Saturdays for properties with odd-numbered addresses and Wednesdays and Sundays for properties with even-numbered addresses. No irrigation shall be allowed on Mondays, Thursdays, or Fridays except for the use of a hand-held hose. Irrigation using a hand-held hose shall be allowed at any time.
III	Pending/Critical	Mandatory restriction of irrigation to the use of a hand-held hose on Tuesdays and Saturdays for properties with odd-numbered addresses and Wednesdays and Sundays for properties with even-numbered addresses. No irrigation of any kind shall be allowed on Mondays, Thursdays, or Fridays.
IV	Critical	Irrigation is prohibited at any time. Exceptions for irrigation using a hand-held hose may be allowed under conditions prescribed by the Village Manager of the Village of Ridgewood.

B. Stage I, Stage II, Stage III and Stage IV emergency regulations shall become effective upon declaration of each stage by the Village Manager of the Village of Ridgewood. Stage I shall become effective without such declaration on June 1 of each year and shall remain in effect through August 31 of that year except for any period where Stage II, Stage III, or Stage IV emergency regulations are declared. Exceptions to the user restrictions, such as for irrigation of newly planted lawns or shrubs, for cleaning cars or houses, for filling swimming pools or other such outdoor water usage, shall be determined by the Village Manager of the Village of Ridgewood or a Village of Ridgewood employee designated by the Village Manager. Use of any private well shall be exempt from these regulations, provided that said well is first registered with the local Health Authority.