



## **Water Saving Tips 2023**

To save money and water, we've all been told to turn off the tap and run your dishwasher and washing machine only when full. But have you ever thought to:

### **Water your lawn at the right time**

Watering your lawn in the early morning or evening reduces the amount of water lost to evaporation. Position sprinklers so that the water is going where it's needed — on the plants — rather than on the sidewalk or driveway. Check your sprinkler program to make sure you're not overwatering. Don't water if it is windy or if it has rained recently; in fact, consider adding a sensor that will automatically shut off your sprinkler system when it rains.

### **Mow High and Mulch Mow**

Adjust the lawn mower to a height of four inches or higher because taller grass shades roots and holds soil moisture. Mulch mow your leaves and leave them and lawn clippings on the ground to hold in moisture. Layer excess leaves or mulch around trees and plants to lock in moisture and slow down evaporation.

### **Plant Natives**

One-third of residential water use goes toward watering the lawn and garden. Native flowers, grasses, and bushes have adapted to regional rainfall rates — so require no extra watering — and have better defenses against predators. Another bonus: Native plants foster healthy soil and insect life, which attract birds and enhance overall biodiversity. To find plants from your area, check out: <https://www.sunywcc.edu/about/npc/>

### **Attach an Aerator**

Conserve water while the tap is running by installing an aerator or a WaterSense-certified faucet. If one in every 10 American homes installed WaterSense faucets, we'd save 6 billion gallons of water and more than \$50 million in energy costs.

### **Check for Leaks**

Whether it's your faucet, pipes, hose or sprinkler system, finding the root causes of leaks can save water and save you MONEY! A 1/16-inch opening in your faucet could waste 100 gallons a day. Most faucet drips can be fixed simply by replacing a worn-out washer. For other tips and fixes:

<https://www.epa.gov/watersense/fix-leak-week>

### **Another Reason to Compost**

Garbage disposals require lots of running water. Instead of sending food scraps down the sink, start a compost pile or recycle your food scraps. Not only will you save gallons of water every day, but compost is a free garden enhancer! <https://www.townofmamaroneckny.org/697/Composting-in-Our-Community>

### **Install a Rain Barrel**

Attach a rain barrel to your home's downspout to capture roof runoff and water your garden for free!

### **Capture Greywater**

Greywater is gently used water from your sinks, showers and washing machines. It may contain traces of dirt, food, and cleaning products but it's safe and beneficial for your home gardens! This excess 'compost water' adds valuable minerals and nutrients to soil. Capturing greywater can be as simple as scrubbing vegetables in a bowl of water and pouring the water in the garden or installing a diversion system:

<https://www.watercalculator.org/posts/greywater/>

**More tips are available from Westchester County**

<https://planning.westchestergov.com/environment/water-conservation/water-conservation-tips>