

# Village of Obetz Utilities Department

## WATER SAVING TIPS—OUTDOORS

1. Check your sprinkler system frequently and adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk, or street.
2. Avoid planting turf in areas that are hard to water such as steep inclines and isolated strips along sidewalks and driveways.
3. Install covers on pools and spas and check for leaks around your pumps.
4. Plant during the spring or fall when the watering requirements are lower.
5. Minimize evaporation by watering during the early morning hours, when temperatures are cooler and winds are lighter.
6. Use a layer of organic mulch around plants to reduce evaporation and save hundreds of gallons of water a year.
7. Use a broom instead of a hose to clean your driveway or sidewalk and save 80 gallons of water every time.
8. Divide your watering cycle into shorter periods to reduce runoff and allow for better absorption every time you water.
9. Check outdoor faucets, pipes, and hoses for leaks.
10. Only water your lawn when needed. You can tell this by simply walking across your lawn. If you leave footprints, it's time to water.
11. Adjust your lawn mower to a higher setting. Longer grass shades root systems and holds soil moisture better than a closely clipped lawn.
12. Use the sprinkler for larger areas of grass. Water small patches by hand to avoid waste.
13. Use porous materials for walkways and patios to keep water in your yard and prevent wasteful runoff.
14. Direct downspouts and other runoff towards shrubs and trees, or collect and use for your garden.
15. Water your summer lawns once every three days.
16. Install a rain shut-off device on your automatic sprinklers to eliminate unnecessary watering.
17. Choose a water-efficient drip irrigation system for trees, shrubs and flowers. Watering at the roots is very effective, be careful not to over water.
18. Reduce the amount of grass in your yard by planting shrubs, and ground cover with rock and granite mulching.
19. Don't water your lawn on windy days.
20. Water your plants deeply but less frequently to create healthier and stronger landscapes.
21. Make sure you know where your master water shut-off valve is located. This could save gallons of water and damage to your home if a pipe were to burst.
22. Group plants with the same watering needs together to get the most out of your watering time.
23. Remember to weed your lawn and garden regularly. Weeds compete with other plants for nutrients, light, and water.
24. While fertilizers promote plant growth, they also increase water consumption. Apply the minimum amount of fertilizer needed.
25. Avoid installing ornamental water features and fountains that spray water into the air. Trickling or cascading fountains lose less water to evaporation.
26. Next time you add or replace a flower or shrub, choose a low water use plant for year-round landscape color and save up to 550 gallons each year.
27. Use a screwdriver as a soil probe to test soil moisture. If it goes in easily, don't water. Proper lawn watering can save thousands of gallons of water annually.
28. Avoid overseeding your lawn with winter grass. Once established, ryegrass needs water every three to five days, whereas dormant Bermuda grass needs water only once a month.
29. When the kids want to cool off, use the sprinkler in an area where your lawn needs it the most.
30. Make sure your swimming pools, fountains, and ponds are equipped with recirculating pumps.
31. Winterize outdoor spigots when temps dip to 20 degrees F to prevent pipes from bursting or freezing.
32. Wash your car on the grass. This will water your lawn at the same time.
33. If you have an evaporative cooler, direct the water drain to a flowerbed, tree, or your lawn.
34. Use a hose nozzle and turn off the water while you wash your car and save more than 100 gallons.
35. Leave lower branches on trees and shrubs and allow leaf litter to accumulate on top of the soil. This keeps the soil cooler and reduces evaporation.
36. Bermuda grasses are dormant (brown) in the winter and will only require water once every three to four weeks or less if it rains.
37. Use sprinklers that throw big drops of water close to the ground. Smaller drops of water and mist often evaporate before they hit the ground.
38. More plants die from over-watering than from under-watering. Be sure to water plants only when necessary.
39. Adjust your watering schedule to the season. Water your summer lawn every third day and your winter lawn every fifth day.
40. Water only as rapidly as the soil can absorb the water.
41. Aerate your lawn. Punch holes in your lawn about six inches apart so water will reach the roots rather than run off the surface.
42. For hanging baskets, planters and pots, place ice cubes under the moss or dirt to give your plants a cool drink of water and help eliminate water overflow.

