

# 25 THINGS YOU CAN DO TO SAVE WATER *OUTDOORS*

## 1. **Water in the early morning —**

between 4 a.m. and 7 a.m. It's better than watering at dusk and helps prevent growth of fungus on plants. Watering in the hot sun is not good for plants, and in the heat of the day, most of the water evaporates anyway.

## 2. **Follow the odd/even watering schedule.**

If your address ends with an odd number, water only on odd-numbered days. If your address ends with an even number, water only on even numbered days.

## 3. **Ecoscape your yard.**

Consider incorporating alternatives to lawn, such as rocks, bark and other mulches, into your landscape.

## 4. **Plant drought-resistant trees and plants.**

Plants that are native to Alberta are adaptable to drought and cold.

## 5. **Water your lawn only if it needs it.**

Lawns don't need to be watered every day. A good way to see if your lawn needs watering is to step on the grass. If it springs back up when you move away, it doesn't need water.

## 6. **Don't water the gutter!**

Position your sprinkler so water lands on the lawn or garden, not on paved areas.

## 7. **Avoid watering on windy days.**

When you water when it's windy, most of the water is lost to evaporation.

## 8. **Use a broom, not a hose,**

to clean driveways and sidewalks.

## 9. **Give your car a sponge bath,**

not a shower. Clean the car with a pail of soapy water. Only use the hose to rinse off the suds.

## 10. **Cut your grass higher than usual.**

Taller grass holds water better, provides shade for roots and actually looks richer. The optimal height for grass is 6 to 8 cm.

## 11. **Hydro-zone your yard and garden.**

Group plants with the same watering needs together to get the most out of your watering time.

## 12. **Use a rain barrel.**

Save money by reducing your monthly water bill.

## 13. **Leave your grass clippings on the lawn.**

Clippings provide mulch and help retain moisture.

## 14. **Leave the kiddie pool empty.**

Rather than filling a pool for your children to cool down in, let them play in the sprinkler while you water the lawn.

## 15. **Mulch.**

Put grass clippings or wood chips around trees, shrubs and plants to help retain valuable moisture.

## 16. **Don't let the water run.**

Make sure your garden hose has a nozzle that allows you to stop the flow.

## 17. **Check for leaks.**

We're more likely to notice leaky faucets indoors, but don't forget to check outdoor faucets, pipes and hoses for leaks.

## 18. **Update your sprinkler.**

Switch to a sprinkler with a timer built in or purchase a timer that can be attached directly to your faucet.

## 19. **Avoid installing water features that spray water into the air.**

Trickling or cascading fountains lose less water to evaporation.

## 20. **Get out your gardening gloves.**

Remember to weed your lawn and garden regularly. Weeds compete with other plants for nutrients, light and water.

## 21. **Limit your fertilizer use.**

While fertilizers promote plant growth, they also increase water consumption. Apply minimum amount of fertilizer needed.

## 22. **Don't ignore what nature provides for free.**

Lawns need only 2.5 cm of water each week. Measure the amount of rain your lawn gets, and reduce your watering accordingly. Use a rain gauge or place an empty tuna can on the lawn.

## 23. **Use sprinklers that throw big drops.**

Smaller drops of water and mist often evaporate before they hit the ground.

## 24. **Aerate your lawn.**

Punch holes in your lawn about six inches apart so water will reach the roots rather than run off the surface.

## 25. **Encourage your friends and neighbours to be part of a water-conscious community.**

## Every drop counts!

780.939.4361

[www.morinville.ca](http://www.morinville.ca)



  
**Morinville**  
*Growing Together*