

Water Conservation

Saving water makes sense for a number of reasons. Prolonged drought has meant that our galleries are producing less water than we would like. Conservation is critical to ensure that we all have water for our essential household needs and fire protection. In addition, conserving water means we will all pay less to pump water up the hill, and with the recent hike in power rates, that means more cost savings for all of us, not to mention saving wear and tear on the system.

Below you will find some tips on how you can help keep our water use to a minimum. We're all in this together, so thanks in advance for your cooperation.

- Wash cars at a car wash. Good car washes typically recycle their water.
- Run drip systems for your landscaping and gardening needs. Drip systems are 50% more efficient than sprinkler systems and they get the water right where the plant needs it the most.
- If you must have an above-ground irrigation system, consider using automatic sprinklers and running them at night. Day use not only impacts our water system when we need it the most, but during the heat of the day a large percentage of water is lost to evaporation.
- Check sprinkler heads for flow rate settings. If possible use 3 GPM or even 1 GPM heads. Remember, you only need about an inch of water every other night to sustain grass.
- Review the type of grass you have. If possible sow in more drought resistant grasses.
- Consider a smaller lawn and do more xeriscaping where possible. Rock is a great way to do this and you never have to mow it. It's also a great fire barrier.
- Run full loads of dishes only and if possible turn it on before you go to bed when the water demand is low.
- Run full loads of clothes on laundry day.
- Take quick showers instead of baths. Baths can use up to 30-40 gallons. A quick shower can use half that amount.

- Replace existing shower heads with low flow high pressure nozzles. Very good 2.0 & 2.5 GPM flow rate heads are available.
 - If you are building or remodeling use low volume toilets (1-3 gal/flush vs. 5-10 gal/flush).
 - If you are in the market for a new clothes washer consider a high efficiency front-loading machine.
 - Never run an open garden hose. Always have a shut off nozzle on the end to save water when not used for specific reason.
 - If operating an evaporative cooler (swamp cooler) during hot weather, be sure to install new pads and make sure that the pump and float level are adjusted properly to avoid overflow.
 - Repair leaky faucets and running toilets promptly.
 - Last but not least; always be on the lookout for water leaks from the Wilderness Ranch distribution system. If you find a leak on your property isolate your main line and make repairs. If you notice a leak on other Ranch property, or you can't handle a leak on your property, please contact our Water Supervisor, Butch Anderson at 424-3352 for assistance.
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