



MEDFORD WATER

WELCOME
Home

*The homeowners guide
to water efficiency!*





WATER EFFICIENCY

**YOUR ULTIMATE GUIDE TO
SMART WATER MANAGEMENT**

LAWN REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

The goal of this program is to remove non-functional turf and replace it with drought-tolerant plantings to reduce peak water usage during the summer months. Turf grass uses the most water outdoors and, in many cases, it provides little benefit and can be overwatered. This program seeks to minimize these areas and save water.

SPRINKLER SURVEY PROGRAM

Evaluations are offered during the summer months and consist of a comprehensive assessment of the design, operation and management of your sprinkler system. Assistance with sprinkler controllers and watering schedules will also be provided. A brief report outlining general observations of your sprinkler system as well as suggestions for future use will be mailed following the evaluation. This is a great opportunity to learn ways to save water and money while still maintaining a healthy and attractive landscape.



WATER-WISE PLANTS

There are many attractive plants that can thrive on limited amounts of water. In a climate that lacks reliable summer precipitation, use of these plants can help create a beautiful landscapes with reduced effort and irrigation.



WATER-WISE LANDSCAPING

Local water use during summer months is often more than three times higher than winter water usage levels, with most of the increase being tied to irrigation of landscapes.

FOR MORE INFO VISIT OUR WATER-WISE GARDENING WEBSITE

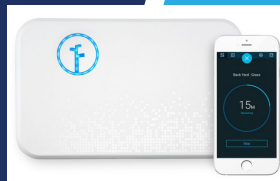
SPRINKLER CONTROLLER BASICS

"not a 'set it and forget it' tool"

Sprinkler controllers are the command center for the entire irrigation system, but often have many features that are misunderstood or not utilized. When the timer is properly set, the landscape health can be enhanced while saving thousands of gallons of water each month. It is important for property owners to understand how to operate the timer and to realize that the timer is not a "set it and forget it" tool. Rather, watering schedules should be modified throughout the sprinkling season.

TOILET REBATE PROGRAM

In an average home with older plumbing fixtures, nearly one-third of the water used indoors is flushed down toilets. In order to keep more water from going down the drain, Medford Water offers rebates to help property owners replace their old relics with new low-flush models.

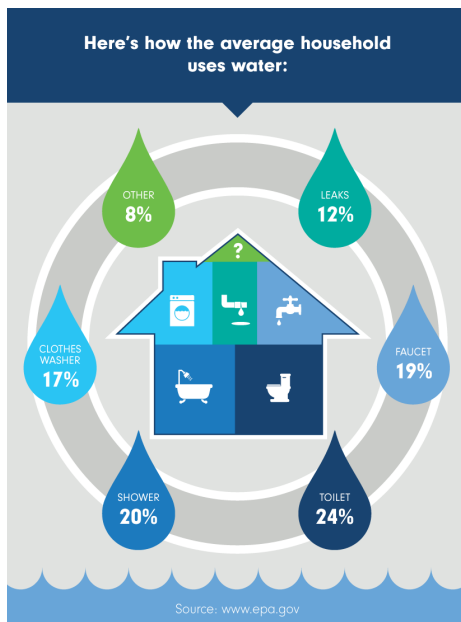


SMART CONTROLLER REBATE PROGRAM

Residential outdoor water use in the United States accounts for more than 9 billion gallons of water each day, mainly for landscape irrigation. Experts estimate that as much as 50 percent of this water is wasted due to overwatering caused by inefficiencies in irrigation methods and systems. Irrigation control technologies can significantly reduce overwatering by applying water only when plants need it.

SAVING WATER INDOORS

The average single family residential customer in Medford uses around 5,000 gallons of water per month indoors.



KITCHEN



Avoid letting the water run when rinsing vegetables, cleaning dishes, or defrosting food.

LAUNDRY ROOM



Wait until you have full loads to wash.

BATHROOM



Taking shorter showers and avoid letting the water run while brushing your teeth or shaving.

FOR MORE INFO VISIT OUR WEBSITE
MEDFORDWATER.ORG



CONTACT US

Customer Service

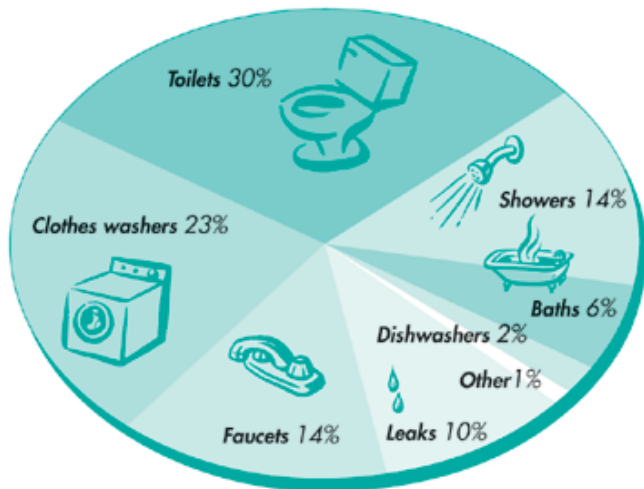
Phone: 541-774-2430

Email: conserve@medfordwater.org

Household Water Savings Tips

Saving Water Indoors

The average single family residential customer in Medford uses around 5,000 gallons of water per month indoors. Homes with 1 to 2 residents often use even less. Following is a typical breakdown of water used in the home.



www.metrovancouver.org

In the Kitchen

- ◆ Your dishwasher uses the same amount of water whether it is full or nearly empty of dishes, so wait until it's full to run it. Many dishwashers have a water saver cycle to save even more water.
- ◆ Keep a container of drinking water in the refrigerator, instead of letting the faucet run until the water cools down.
- ◆ Avoid just letting the water run when rinsing vegetables, cleaning dishes or to defrost food.
- ◆ Fix leaks promptly! Even a small faucet drip can waste 20 gallons of water each day. Large leaks can waste hundreds of gallons per day.

In the Laundry Room

- ◆ Adjust the water level of washing machines to fit the size of the load. Better yet, wait until you have full loads to wash.
- ◆ When purchasing a new washing machine, consider front-load models, which typically use one-third less water than top-load machines.

In the Bathroom



Toilet

- ◆ For water savings with an existing toilet, install early-closing flappers or place small containers filled with pebbles and water in open spaces within the tank.
- ◆ Even better, replace an old toilet with a new model and use $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ as much water each time you flush. Install WaterSense® certified toilets and save even more.
- ◆ Toilet leaks are common and easily repaired with inexpensive replacement parts. Occasionally check for toilet leaks by adding about 10 drops of food coloring to the tank. If the toilet is leaking, color will appear in the bowl within 15-20 minutes.
- ◆ Avoid using the toilet as a wastebasket.

Shower

- ◆ Replacing a shower head is easy and relatively inexpensive. Today's standard models use $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ as much water as older relics. WaterSense models save even more, while also being certified to perform well.
- ◆ Simply taking shorter showers will save gallons of water. A bath can use more or less than a shower depending on how high it is filled.

Faucets

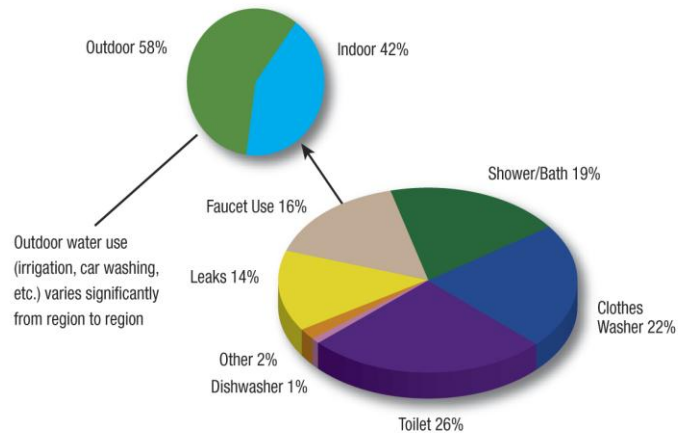
- ◆ Changing an aerator is both simple and very low cost. Look for aerators that flow $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 gallon per minute for bathroom faucets. These typically function well while using less than half as much water as current standard faucets and about $\frac{1}{8}$ as much as older faucets. If the faucet currently has no aerator at all, savings from adding one will be even more.
- ◆ Avoid letting the water run while brushing your teeth or shaving.

Many products are now WaterSense certified. Look for WaterSense labels to help you identify products that meet high water efficiency standards and perform well too.



Saving Water Outdoors

In the summer, average residential water use is approximately 5 times higher than in the winter; mainly due to landscape irrigation.



Residential uses of water in the United States (typically 200 gallons per day per household).
Data from Mayer, et al. Residential End Uses of Water, 1999.

Watering Wisely

- ◆ Water landscaping only when needed. As a general rule, lawns only need watering 3-5 days a week in the summer. Daily watering may only be necessary when temperatures reach over 100 degrees.
- ◆ Water between sunset and sunrise when temperatures and wind are the lowest. Watering during the middle of the day can result in a 30% increase in required water due to evaporation and wind.
- ◆ Step on the grass; if it springs back up when you move your foot, it does not need water.
- ◆ Avoid over-fertilizing your lawn. Applying fertilizer increases the need for water.
- ◆ Group plants with similar watering needs in the same areas.
- ◆ Since our local soils tend to contain a lot of clay and can't absorb water quickly, try breaking watering times into two or more shorter cycles, with about an hour resting time in between. This will reduce run-off and increase the amount of water soaking into the ground.
- ◆ Check the Medford Water Commission **website** or call us at **774-2436** for a sample watering schedule.
- ◆ You can also find more information on current watering needs by calling our **Lawn Watering Infoline at 774-2460**.

Sprinkler Care

- ◆ Adjust sprinklers to avoid watering sidewalks and driveways.
- ◆ Be sure to fix all leaks promptly no matter how small they may seem. Even a small leak can waste hundreds of gallons of water.
- ◆ Give your sprinkler system an occasional checkup. If you haven't observed your system operating lately, turn it on and make sure sprinklers are all facing the right direction and functioning properly.

Yard Maintenance

- ◆ Mulching and adding compost to soil can help soil absorb and store water, minimize evaporation, reduce erosion and help control weeds.
- ◆ Use a broom instead of a hose to clean your driveway or sidewalk. A hose can use 100 gallons in 10 minutes.
- ◆ Raise your lawn mower level to 3 inches. This encourages grass roots to grow deeper, shades the root system and holds soil moisture better than a closely clipped lawn.
- ◆ Keep your lawn mower blades sharpened. Dull blades tear grass, forcing it to use more water.

Car Washing

- ◆ Consider using a commercial car wash that recycles water.
- ◆ If you use a hose to wash your car, be sure to use a hose nozzle that turns the water off when you are not using it. Washing a car for 10 minutes can easily use 100 gallons of water if you let the water run the entire time.
- ◆ Wash with a bucket of water and use the hose only for quick rinses.
- ◆ Wash items such as bicycles and trash cans on the lawn to prevent the water from running down the storm drain.



Medford Water Commission
200 South Ivy Street – Room 177
Medford, Oregon 97501



INDOOR WATER USE GUIDE

FIXTURE	TYPE	WATER USE RATE		FAMILY SIZE		
				1	2	4
TOILETS		Gallons / Flush	* Uses / Day	Daily Water Use (Gallons) 1 gal = 0.133 cu.ft.		
	Older than 1950	6.0	5.0	30.0	60.0	120.0
	1950 - 1980	5.0	5.0	25.0	50.0	100.0
	1980 - 1994	3.5	5.0	17.5	35.0	70.0
	1994 or newer	1.6	5.0	8.0	16.0	32.0
	WaterSense	1.3	5.0	6.5	13.0	26.0
SHOWERS	Dual Flush	1.0	5.0	5.0	10.0	20.0
		Gallons / Minute	* Minutes / Shower	Daily Water Use (Gallons) 1 gal = 0.133 cu.ft.		
	Older than 1980	5.0 - 7.0	10.0	50.0 - 70.0	100.0 - 140.0	200.0 - 280.0
	1980 - 1994	3.5	10.0	35.0	70.0	140.0
	1994 or newer	2.5	10.0	25.0	50.0	100.0
	WaterSense	2.0	10.0	20.0	40.0	80.0
KITCHEN & BATHROOM FAUCETS	WaterSense	1.5	10.0	15.0	30.0	60.0
		Gallons / Minute	* Minutes / Day	Daily Water Use (Gallons) 1 gal = 0.133 cu.ft.		
	No aerator	7.0	3.0	21.0	42.0	84.0
	Older than 1980	5.0	3.0	15.0	30.0	60.0
	1980 - 1994	3.0	3.0	9.0	18.0	36.0
	1994 or newer	2.5	3.0	7.5	15.0	30.0
BATHTUB (22" x 54")	Standard	2.2	3.0	6.6	13.2	26.4
	WaterSense	1.5	3.0	4.5	9.0	18.0
	WaterSense	1.0	3.0	3.0	6.0	12.0
		Gallons / Use	* Uses/Person/Day	Daily Water Use (Gallons) 1 gal = 0.133 cu.ft.		
	Water Depth	21.0	1.0	21.0	42.0	84.0
	8 inches	41.0	1.0	41.0	82.0	164.0
CLOTHES WASHERS		Gallons / Full Load	* Loads/Person/Week	Daily Water Use (Gallons) 1 gal = 0.133 cu.ft.		
	Older than 1980	55.0	2.0	15.7	31.4	62.8
	Top Load	40.0	2.0	11.4	22.8	45.6
	Front Load	25.0	2.0	7.1	14.2	28.4
	Energy Star	14 OR LESS	2.0	4.0	8.0	16.0

* Actual usage may vary. Table by Julie Smitherman Sources: American Water Works Association (AWWA), Residential End Uses of Water, 2016. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Water and Energy Savings from High Efficiency Fixtures and Appliances in Single Family Homes, 2005. EPA, WaterSense & Energy Star Programs, 2013.



MEDFORD
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Find and Fix Leaks:

A HOMEOWNER'S GUIDE TO LEAK DETECTION

WHY LEAK DETECTION MATTERS!

Leaks can waste thousands of gallons of water per year, cause costly damage, *and* increase your water bill. Use this quick guide to find and fix common leaks in and around your home.

INDOOR LEAK DETECTION TIPS



Toilets

- Listen for running water or “phantom flushes.”
- Drop 5-10 drops of food coloring in the tank (not the bowl). Wait 15 minutes without flushing. If color appears in the bowl, you have a leak. Do flush when done.



Faucets & Showerheads

- Check for continued dripping even when turned off.
- Look under sinks for signs moisture or water stains.
- Worn washers or seals are a common culprit and are easy to replace.



Appliances

- Inspect around dishwashers, washing machines, and water heaters for signs of leaks.
- Check hoses for cracks, bulges, or loose connections.
- Place a dry paper towels under appliances overnight to spot hidden drips.



Water Meter Check

- Turn off all water inside and outside your home.
- Watch the water meter. If it moves, you likely have a leak.
- Note the number on the meter, wait 30-60 minutes (with no water use), and check again to see if it has changed.

Continued on Next Page

OUTDOOR LEAK DETECTION TIPS



Hose Bibs & Outdoor Faucets

- Turn on and off - look for drips or leaks at the spout or connection.
- Use a hose washer to ensure a tight seal between the hose and spigot.



Irrigation Systems

- Run each zone and inspect:
 - Sprinkler heads for cracks, clogs, or tilted heads.
 - Puddles or soggy spots that may indicate underground leaks.
- Set a reminder to check your system periodically, at least once a month, for broken or misaligned parts and leaks.



Around the Yard

- Look for unexplained wet patches, mold, or unusually lush areas.
- Monitor for water running into the street when irrigation is off.

STAY LEAK-FREE YEAR-ROUND

- Test your toilet(s) annually.
- Check appliances and hoses annually.
- Inspect your irrigation system before starting it up for the watering season, and again before winterizing it in the fall
- Know where your main water shutoff valve is in case of an emergency.

NEED HELP?

- Call us for:
 - Free showerheads, and bathroom and kitchen faucet aerators (while supplies last)
 - A free Sprinkler Survey
 - Rebate Programs
 - Free Leak Checks



PRO TIP:

Use your monthly water bill as a clue! A sudden spike in usage or higher-than-average numbers for your household size could mean a hidden leak. Call us for help if needed.



Together, we can stop the drip!

**Every drop counts when it comes to protecting your home
and using water efficiently.**

For more information, visit medfordwater.org/waterefficiency or call (541) 774-2430



IRRIGATION CONTROLLERS

WHAT EVERY PROPERTY OWNER SHOULD KNOW

Irrigation controllers are often misunderstood, yet proper scheduling can save thousands of gallons of water each month and protect your landscape. Schedules must be adjusted throughout the season.

not a "set it and forget it" tool



OWNER RESPONSIBILITY

The property owner is ultimately responsible for irrigation schedules. You pay the water bill and your landscape is impacted.



PROGRAMMING YOUR CONTROLLER

- Separate lawn zones from shrub zones by using different programs. Lawns need more water, more often (max 4 days/week; shrubs 2-3 days/week).
- Water between 9 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. when air is cool and calm to minimize evaporation.
- Vary run times by sprinkler type: spray heads apply water faster than rotors, so run them less than half as long; drip zones run longer but less frequently.



SCHEDULING TIPS

- Go to the Medford Water Watering Recommendations webpage for current weekly run times by sprinkler type.
- Divide total weekly minutes by watering days, then split daily minutes into 2-3 short cycles spaced 1-2 hours apart to prevent runoff.
- Use the rain delay feature or turn the controller off after rainfall.
- Adjust schedules as temperatures change through the season.



MEDFORD WATER

HOW TO WINTERIZE

Medford Water



WHY WINTERIZE?

It is important to try to remove water from your irrigation system before freezing temperatures are constant. Water expands when frozen, which can lead to damage and leaks in your irrigation if this process is not followed.



CAN I DO IT?

You can absolutely do it yourself if you follow the instructions on the next page.

You can also contact a landscape contractor to see if they have any winterization services they can offer. For more in-depth, detailed instructions on how to winterize an irrigation system, please scan the QR code or go to the website listed in the window to the left.

Detailed Instructions Here



medfordwater.org/your-water/winterizing

Instructions on other side





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SAFETY FIRST!

Always wear ANSI-approved safety eye protection when using compressed air to blow out a sprinkler system.

Never stand over or near sprinklers or valves while the compressor is running, as serious injury may occur. For assistance, contact a local irrigation specialist.



Winterization Steps



1

Shut Off the Water

Find the main shut-off valve on your irrigation line and close it. If you don't have one, think about installing it.

2

Open Drain Valves

Locate and open any manual drain valves. This helps water flow out by gravity. Check for automatic drains too, but they might get stuck.

3

Let Air In

Prop up each sprinkler riser using rubber bands. This allows air to enter and helps water drain out

4

Winterize the Backflow

Open the test cocks a little (1/8-turn) and adjust the ball valves to a 45-degree angle.

5

Insulate Valves

Cover all above-ground valves to protect them from freezing.

6

Winterize the Controller

Disconnect the common wire marked as "COM" or "C" in your controller. This helps prevent any accidental watering.



Blowing Out the System



1

Close the Main Shutoff

Make sure the shut-off is closed before starting.

2

Turn on the Compressor

Set it to 50 PSI and make sure it's powerful enough (60-100 CFM).

3

Set Controller

Set your controller to run for 2-3 minutes.

4

Connect the Compressor

Use a quick coupler or hose bib to connect the air compressor to the system.

5

Watch the Sprinklers

Turn off the compressor before the last sprinkler stops running.

6

Repeat

Do the blowout a few times to get out as much water as possible.

7

Disconnect the Common Wire

Don't forget to disconnect the common wire again.



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