

## Tips to Save Water and Money During Restrictions

**Don't Over Water** Much water is lost to runoff and doesn't get absorbed. Your lawn cannot take a lot of water at one time. Set your timer to water in short sequences with breaks in between.

A good example is setting your timer to water 4 times at 5 minutes each with a 15 minute break in between. Your lawn and garden will absorb the water much more efficiently than single long periods of watering. Colorado has clay soils which hold more water than sandy soils and drain slower. Less watering also encourages deeper roots for a healthier grass.

**Use "drip" systems** for trees, shrubs, and flowerbeds. Bubbler heads placed at strategic locations slowly and effectively dispense water to these locations.

Drip systems run off their own zones under low pressure through emitters, bubblers or spray heads placed at each plant. This is by far the best way to distribute water to these areas. These systems use 30-50 percent less water and cost less to install.

**Water only during early morning hours.** This is why sprinkler systems on timers work so well. Watering between 2:00 - 5:00 am is best so that the grass blades can dry out from the low sun, breezes, and cool temperatures. Evaporation is low and grass-killing diseases are kept in check.

**Control coverage** by using different zones. Some areas may need more water than others. Drip zones for trees, shrubs, and flowerbeds should be on their own zone.

**Understand the water needs of your plants.** Before you schedule your irrigation, find out how much water is needed for each plant type. If you have plants that love water, then this will not be a consideration.

But if there are plants that are drought tolerant, you may need to water these less. Check with your local nursery if you are not sure.

**If at all possible, don't water if the soil is already wet.** This is especially true with drought tolerant plants. If your lawn doesn't need the water, don't run the system.

## System Maintenance

The maintenance described below can be done by Taylor Made Sprinklers, LLC

**It is a good idea to inspect your system** once a month during watering season to make sure everything is operating properly. This may require that you get a little wet. While the sprinkler system is running, check to see if the sprinkler heads are not clogged and working properly. Also check if there are any large amounts of water puddling in certain areas. This could indicate a leakage in the pipe.

**Reduce the system operating pressure** if you are losing water to a fine mist or fogging from the sprinkler heads. Your sprinkler heads should be spraying large drops of water rather than a fine mist.