



# HANDY TIPS TO CONSERVE & SAVE MONEY THIS SUMMER

## WHEN WATERING



**ONLY WATER WHEN NEEDED.** Depending on the weather or type of plants/turf, you may find you only need to water once or twice per week.



**WATER EARLY IN THE MORNING OR LATER IN THE DAY.** Water when the sun is low to minimize evaporation.



**WATCH WHAT YOU'RE WATERING.** Check sprinkler heads to be sure they're not wasting water on paved or unwanted areas. Reduce run times for shaded areas.



**KEEP AN EYE ON WEATHER.** If rain is in the forecast, turn your sprinkler system off ahead of time.



**MAKE USE OF RAINWATER.** Water collected in rain barrels can be later used to water outdoor plants. Make sure rain barrels have proper coverings.

## IN THE GARDEN



**USE DROUGHT-RESISTANT SPECIES.** Native plants will have the benefit of being adapted to local conditions. Also, they usually need less maintenance and watering.



**MULCH.** Mulching beds can help retain moisture and prevent weeds. Be careful not to over-mulch. Two to three inches should do the job.



**SET YOUR MOWER HIGHER.** Anything cut less than two inches high is much more vulnerable to burnout, weeds, insects, and disease. Best bet? Mowing at 2.5 to 3.5 inches, depending on the time of year.

## AROUND THE YARD



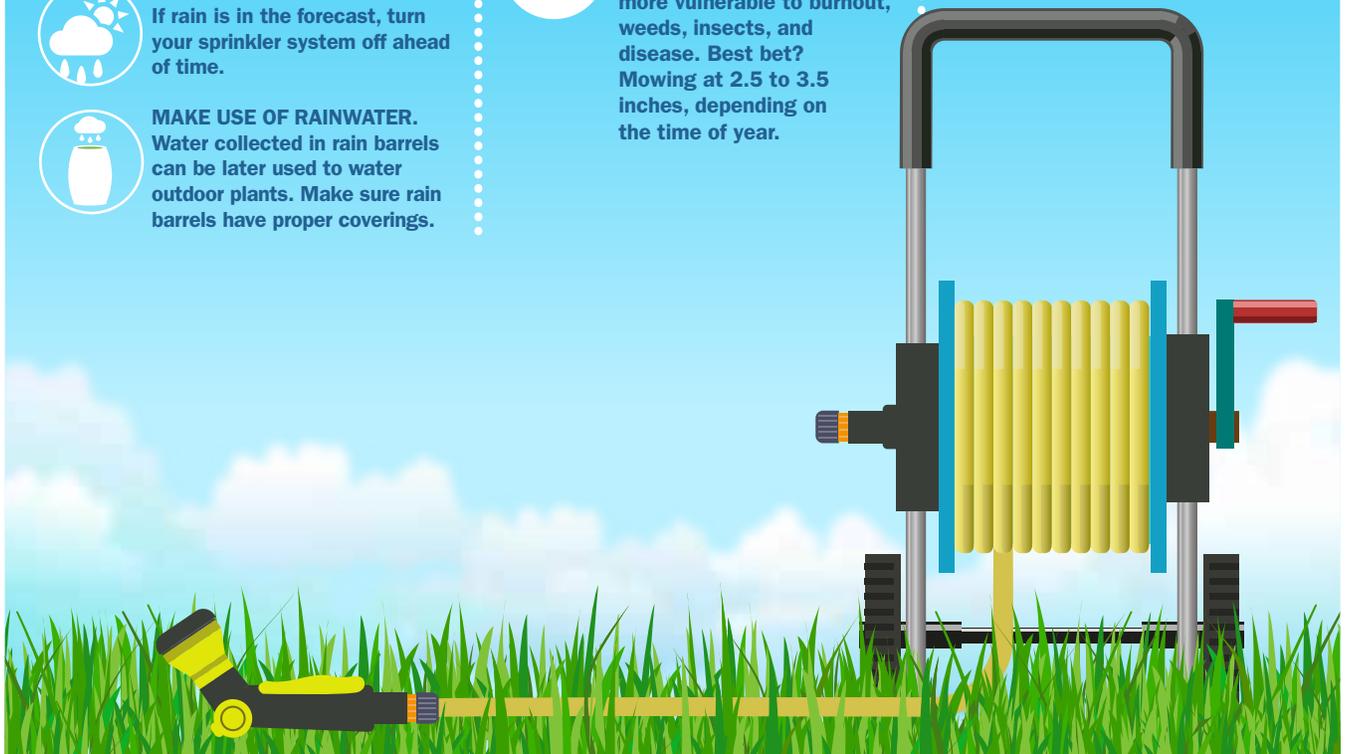
**CHECK FOR LEAKS AND BREAKS.** Do a periodic walkthrough of your landscaped area to make sure system pipes are in good condition.



**SWEEP, DON'T SPRAY.** Use a broom instead of a hose to clean patios, decks, and sidewalks.



**CAR WASH WISELY.** Washing your car with a bucket of soapy water uses far less water than leaving a hose running.



## EVERY SUMMER, EVERY DROP COUNTS

It's estimated that up to 50% of the water we use outdoors in the summer is not needed to maintain a healthy landscape. But how do you know where to begin to use water wisely? It's easier than you might think. And this handy guide can help you get started. As you enjoy your summer, we hope you'll keep conservation in mind. For even more water-saving tips, please visit [www.amwater.com](http://www.amwater.com)



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