

CONSERVE WATER AND LOWER YOUR WATER BILL!



Statewide Outdoor Water Use Schedule

Due to drought conditions across Georgia, the Director of the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has issued a **level four drought response** that mandates a more stringent outdoor water use schedule. The level four drought response schedule is as follows: A level four drought response prohibits all outdoor water usage, other than for activities exempted by the State EPD or as the State EPD director may order. Under the declaration:

- Watering of newly installed landscape by homeowners is prohibited in Drought Response Level 4. For new landscape installed prior to the Drought Response Level 4 declaration the homeowner may complete their 30 watering days between the hours of midnight and 10 AM. Proof of landscape purchase prior to the declaration date is required.
- Watering of new landscape installed by certified or licensed professionals may be watered for 30 days.
- Landscape and irrigation professionals are exempt from restrictions when on the property.
- Homeowners must follow the hours of Midnight -10 AM.
- Irrigation of personal food gardens is allowed.

10 Easy Ways to Conserve Water



1. **Water wisely.** Generally, your lawn needs about an inch of water a week. Over watering lawns results in shallow-rooted plants that are less tolerant of heat and drought, and more prone to disease. Avoid over watering by using a rain gauge and watering only when necessary, instead of on a fixed schedule.
2. **Improve your aim.** Adjust your sprinklers to water only your lawn and plants — not your driveway, sidewalk, or street.

3. **Use mulch.** Place a thick layer of mulch (e.g., four inches) around trees and plants. This helps retain water, reduce weeds, and minimize the need for pesticides.
4. **Sweep it.** Clean sidewalks and driveways with a broom, instead of a hose. You'll save water and keep unwanted pollutants out of the storm drain.



5. **Put rainwater to work.** Use rainwater to water your plants. Direct downspouts toward your plants and green areas or collect water with rain barrels for use later.



6. **Water only once a week.** When it hasn't rained, a deep soaking every week will provide your plants with plenty of moisture.
7. **Mow high.** Make your lawn cheaper and easier to maintain by mowing high (three inches is recommended). Longer grass has deeper roots and requires less water.
8. **Soak don't sprinkle.** When you water, aim the nozzle at the base of plants so more water will reach the roots.

9. **Don't water in the heat of the day.** You will only lose water to evaporation. If you have an automatic system, set it to come on in the early morning hours between 4 a.m. and 10 a.m.
10. **Turn off the sprinkler when it rains.** Install an inexpensive rain sensor shut-off switch.



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