

WATER CONSERVATION

The City of Odessa strongly encourages its customers to use water wisely so that our limited water supply can be conserved. Customers can also reduce their water bills through implementing some of the following conservation measures.

Outdoor Tips

- Water early in the morning when winds and temperatures are lower.
- Water until the soil is wet to a depth of about 6 inches. Then wait until the grass shows signs of drought stress (grass leaves turning a dull blush color, leaf blades folding, or persistent footprints after walking on the lawn) before watering again.
- Use a bucket of soapy water and a hose with a shut-off nozzle to wash your car.
- Control water so that it stays on your lawn areas.
Irrigate using a system that disperses large drops of water at a low angle.
- Monthly, visually inspect the operation of automatic sprinkler systems to ensure proper operation.
- Select drought tolerant plants and grasses and condition the soil with mulch and compost.
- Add sufficient fertilizer to stimulate the roots of your lawn, but do not over fertilize.
- Do not remove more than 1/3 of the leaf area of the grass when mowing. This will provide a denser leaf, which will lessen evaporation and help prevent weeds.
- If you have a swimming pool or spa, use a cover. By so doing, you can cut the loss of water through evaporation by 90 percent.
- Use a broom, rather than a hose to clean sidewalks or driveways.

Indoor Tips

- Repair dripping faucets and leaky toilets.
- Only wash full loads when using your dishwasher.
- Use the lowest possible water level setting when washing clothes.
- Install low flow showerheads and low water usage toilets to assist in indoor conservation.
- Do not run water while brushing teeth or shaving.
- Purchase appliances that offer water and energy efficiency cycle options.
- Install aerators on every faucet.
- Take a short shower instead of a bath.

Pamphlets with additional water conservation tips can be obtained by calling 335-4625.

Odessa's Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Plan can be reviewed at www.ci.odessa.tx.us.