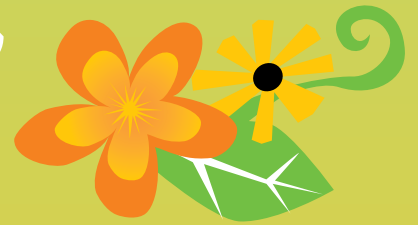




BACK TO BASICS



During the summer, most water bills can double and maybe even triple. In fact, about 32% of your annual water bill goes to summer water use. All of this at a time when the Clackamas River, our precious drinking water source, has the least amount of water to give.

Water conservation and efficiency are always a good idea. But summer time is especially important.

Here are a few basic tips to keep us on track and make sure we're not wasting this precious resource.



SUMMER WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

Visit our website www.clackamasproviders.org for more information.



IRRIGATION TIPS

- Check your system each spring. Because automatic irrigation systems often come on during the early morning hours, leaks and other problems can go unnoticed for long periods of time.
- Take time to check your system periodically throughout the summer to ensure the system is operating properly and efficiently.
- Replace your old irrigation controller with a new Watersense® weather based controller or adjust your current controller to the weather throughout the summer so you're not depriving plants or watering unnecessarily.
- Correctly program your irrigation controller.
- Install a rain sensor switch to temporarily shut off your system when it rains.
- Prevent run-off by splitting watering times into two or more applications with breaks in between. This will promote deeper root growth and foster a healthy landscape that is more resistant to dry weather.
- Water early in the morning when the air is cool and calm and evaporation is at a minimum. Watering in the evening is second best.



- Consider switching your old spray nozzles for more efficient multi-stream rotating nozzles.



- Consider drip irrigation — this reduces evaporation and applies water directly to the roots.



OUTDOOR WATER EFFICIENT TIPS

- Wash your car on the lawn.
- Take your car to a car wash that recycles and reuses the wash water.
- Fix all dripping hose bibs.
- Cover the pool when you're not using it to prevent unnecessary evaporation.
- Check for undetected leaks in your pool throughout the summer.
- Use a bucket of soapy water and a shut-off spray nozzle on the end of your hose when you wash your car.
- Sweep your driveways and patios instead of cleaning them off with water.



LAWN CARE TIPS

- A healthy lawn needs less water, pesticides, and fertilizers. Typical Willamette Valley lawns need only one inch of water a week, unless it's really hot.
- Aerate lawns in the early summer to allow water and air to reach the roots.
- Mow high to shade roots, keep soil cool and retain soil moisture.
- Mulch grass clippings to naturally green up your lawn.
- Water one inch a week, unless it's really hot. Visit our website for the weekly watering number.
- Fertilizer organically to protect kids, pets, and the environment.
- Skip the weed and feed products. Many of these can damage soil as well as pollute our waterways.



BUILD HEALTHY SOILS

- Healthy soil holds water like a sponge, slowly releasing moisture when lawns and plants need it most.
- Avoid using man-made fertilizers and pesticides. They can harm worms and other beneficial organisms found in healthy soil.
- Healthy soil will reduce runoff — and less runoff means less pollution and sediment in our streams and rivers.
- Adding soil amendments like compost or mulch cools and feeds the soil, improves water holding capacity, encourages deeper root growth and reduces the need for water and fertilizers.