

Outdoor Watering

From May to September, water use in our region can increase by 50%, primarily for outdoor use for lawns and gardens. Experts estimate that 50% or more of this water goes to waste. Use these outdoor tips to lower water bills, water plants more efficiently, and conserve water.



Use a Rain Barrel for Economical Outdoor Water Use

Find water saving tips and rain barrel rebates at serviceauthority.org



Smart Watering Tips

- Water plants deeply, but infrequently.
- Use a soaker hose or drip irrigation instead of sprinklers to save 50% more water.
- Watch sprinkler coverage to make sure that it is not watering the pavement.
- Use a timer—attached to the outdoor faucet—to water exactly the right amount.
- Water plants in either the early morning or evening; if you water at mid-day, half of the water will evaporate.
- Adjust your lawn mower to a higher setting so that the grass holds moisture better.

Automatic Irrigations Systems

- Schedule an annual inspection and ensure that the “rain shutoff” is working.
- Curb waste by checking that the system is programmed correctly, aimed in the right direction, and leak free.
- Adjust the watering schedule in the cooler months (May and September) when plants need less water.
- Check for leaks; leaks as small as the tip of a ballpoint pen (1/32”) can waste up to 6,000 gallons or more a month.
- If water runs off your lawn easily, split your watering time into shorter periods to allow for better absorption.

Irrigation Use

600 of our 19,200 customers have irrigation systems: in summer months that use can exceed 10% of the total water used. Irrigate smartly!



ACSA Toilet Rebate Program

Receive \$100 for each water guzzling toilet.

See serviceauthority.org for details.



How Can I Test for a Leaky Toilet?

See the attached toilet dye strip to test your toilet for a leak.



Be a Leak Detective.

Don't overlook that running toilet or drippy shower head—leaks add up fast and can be very costly.

The average ACSA customer uses 3,500 gallons a month. Check your bill. If you are over that average, you may have a leak or need to employ these water-saving tips:

- Replace your toilet with a new water efficiency low-flow model—toilets account for more than 1/3 of residential water use.
- Update to a water-saving faucet aerator or a low-flow showerhead, which use 1/3 of the amount of water. We offer free ones!
- Check your toilet for leaks—if you hear it running, you have a leak.
- Use dishwashers and washing machines with a "water sense" rating, which use 50% less water. Be sure to run only full loads, which can save as much as 1,000 gallons a year.
- Take speedy showers to save as much as 5 gallons per minute.
- Monitor your water bill for unusually high use.
- Learn how to use your water meter to check for leaks. Don't know how? We can help!
- Grab a wrench and fix that leaky faucet to save up to 140 gallons a week.
- Pick up a free water conservation kit by calling ACSA at 977-4511, Ext. 3.



Albemarle County Service Authority
Serving • Conserving

Safe. Clean. Reliable.

ServiceAuthority.org



Call for Service 24 Hours a Day
434-977-4511