

Ripple Effect #4

Water is for our use – not our waste! The American Water Works Association has developed a list of 10 things you can do to save water outside this summer. Following these simple tips will help save thousands of gallons every year in every household.

1. ***Water your lawn only when it needs it.*** A good way to see if your lawn needs watering is to step on the grass. If it springs back up when you move, it doesn't need water. If it stays flat, fetch the sprinkler.
2. ***Deep-soak your lawn.*** When you do water, do it long enough for the moisture to soak down to the roots where it does the most good. A light sprinkling can evaporate quickly and tends to encourage shallow root systems.
3. ***Water during the cool parts of the day.*** Early morning generally is better because it helps prevent growth of fungus.
4. ***Don't water the gutter.*** Position your sprinkler so water lands on the lawn, not paved areas. Also avoid watering on windy days.
5. ***Plant drought-resistant trees and plants.*** Many beautiful trees and plants thrive with far less watering than other species.
6. ***Put a layer of mulch around trees and plants.*** Mulch slows evaporation of moisture and discourages weed growth.
7. ***Use a broom, not a hose, to clean driveways and sidewalks.***
8. ***Don't run the hose while washing your car.*** Clean the car with a pail of soapy water. Use the hose just for rinsing.
9. ***Tell your children not to play with the hose and sprinklers.***
10. ***Check for leaks in pipes, hoses, faucets, and couplings.*** Leaks outside the house may not seem as bad because they're not as visible. But they can be just as wasteful as leaks inside. Check frequently and keep them drip-free.

Until the next Ripple Effect,

The Red River Basin Commission (RRBC)

The RRBC is a grassroots organization that is a chartered not-for-profit corporation under the provisions of Manitoba, North Dakota, Minnesota, and South Dakota law. Our offices in Moorhead, MN and Winnipeg, MB can be reached at 218-291-0422 and 204-982-7254, or you can check out our website at www.redriverbasincommission.org.

