TIPS FOR SAVING WATER
When in Drought or Not – Please Do Your Part!

1. **LIMIT LAWN WATERING, ESPECIALLY DURING A DROUGHT**
   Lawns naturally go dormant during dry conditions. They’ll revive when conditions improve.
   - If you are in a region at Drought Level 3, Critical Drought (Severe Drought Conditions) or Drought Level 4, Emergency Drought: Do not water your lawn.
   - If you are in a region at Drought Level 2, Significant Drought (Moderate to Severe Drought): Limit watering to hand-held only or drip irrigation. Water after 5PM or before 9AM to avoid evaporative losses.
   - If you are in a region at Drought Level 1, Mild Drought (Abnormally Dry Conditions): Limit watering to 1 day per week at most. Water after 5PM or before 9AM.

2. **MINIMIZE LANDSCAPE WATER NEEDS THROUGH WATER-SMART LANDSCAPING PRINCIPLES**
   - Maintain healthy soils (a minimum of 6-inches in depth, where possible).
   - Choose native plants or plants and turf that need less water.
   - Use mulch to reduce evaporation and moderate soil temperature.
   - Leave grass clippings on lawn to shade and return nutrients to soil.

3. **MINIMIZE YOUR USE OF WATER OUTDOORS**
   - Sweep driveways, walks, patios, and other outdoor areas with a broom rather than hosing them off.
   - Wash vehicles using a bucket and sponge, employing a hose with a shut-off nozzle for rinse only, or, if available, use a commercial car wash that recycles water (most do).
   - Cover swimming pools when not in use to prevent evaporation.

4. **INDOOR WATER USE**
   - Choose high-efficiency plumbing products and appliances (look for the WaterSense or Energy Star labels).
   - Turn off water while brushing teeth or shaving: “Never Let the Water Run.”
   - Take shorter showers (5 minutes or less) and use water-saving showerheads.
   - Wash only full loads of laundry and dishes.
   - Fix leaks! Dripping faucets and leaking toilets, pipes, and appliances can add up to hundreds of gallons of water lost per week.
   - Create a kitchen compost bin instead of using the garbage disposal.
   - Collect and reuse clean household water (water running while you wait for hot water to reach your faucet or shower; leftover water from cooking, etc.) and use this to water plants.

1. Certain water uses are not subject to mandatory restrictions, such as water used for health or safety reasons; for the production of food and fiber; for the maintenance of livestock; to meet the core functions of a business (for example, irrigation by plant nurseries as necessary to maintain stock).
2. Adapted from Water-Smart Landscapes Start with WaterSense (EPA WaterSense)

To check your drought region and status go to: mass.gov/ma-drought-management