



Tips for Saving Water

When in Drought or Not – We All can do Our Part!

OUTDOOR WATER USE

1. Limit lawn watering, especially during a drought¹

Lawns naturally go dormant during dry conditions. They'll revive when conditions improve.

- If you are in a Region in **Drought Warning** (Severe Drought Conditions): **DO NOT WATER YOUR LAWN.**
- If you are in a Region in **Drought Watch** (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 in **Drought Advisory** (Abnormally Dry Conditions): *Limit watering to 1 day per week at most. Water after 5PM or before 9AM.*

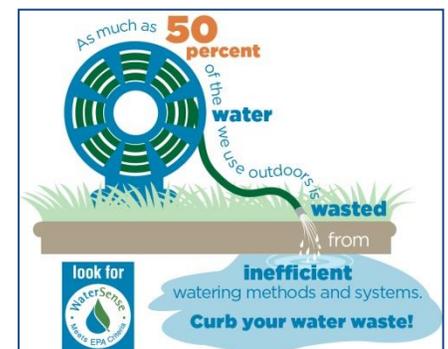
2. Minimize landscape water needs through water-smart landscaping principles²:

- 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.

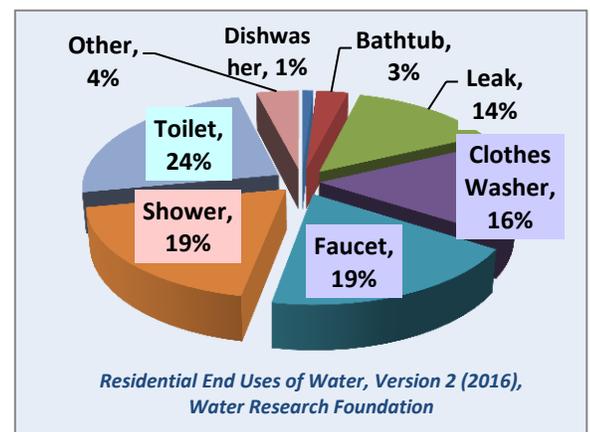
To check your drought region and status go to:
www.mass.gov/dcr/drought



Source: <https://www3.epa.gov/watersense/>

INDOOR WATER USE

1. Take shorter showers (5 minutes or less) and use water-saving showerheads.
2. Turn off water while brushing teeth or shaving: "Never Let the Water Run."
3. Wash only full loads of laundry and dishes.
4. Choose high-efficiency plumbing products and appliances (*look for the WaterSense or Energy Star labels*).
5. Fix leaks! Dripping faucets and leaking toilets, pipes, and appliances can add up to hundreds of gallons of water lost per week.
6. Create a kitchen compost bin instead of using the garbage disposal.
7. 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.



Daily percent of indoor water use, per person

¹ Certain water uses are not subject to mandatory restrictions, such as water used: for health or safety reasons; for production of food and fiber; for 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)