

# Water 3 times a week...and fix that leak!

Did you know that about 70% of the water used during the summer months is for landscape irrigation? Much of that water is being wasted because most landscapes (yes, even your lawn!) do not need to be watered every day. Landscapes can be watered only 3 days a week, without increasing the duration of watering, and still maintain that attractive look. Saving water is not only good for your pocketbook, but will also help reduce your carbon footprint.

### Water three times a week

In order to reduce demand on the water system during peak hours in the summer and to improve water conservation city-wide, water three times a week!

**If your address ends in an odd number (1, 3, 5, 7 or 9), please try to irrigate your landscape only on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. If your address ends in an even number (2, 4, 6, 8, or 0), please try to water only on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays.**

Whether you set timers for your irrigation or you water by hand with a hose, if you keep your watering to the three days assigned, we will save water and reduce the strain on our City water system—half the City will irrigate their landscape on 3 days out of the week, the other half will irrigate on another 3 days, and Monday, traditionally the

day that the City's water system experiences it's peak demand, will have reduced use.

Just because you're reducing your watering to 3 days a week does not mean that you need to water your landscape for longer periods of time. Lawns, which are probably the thirstiest landscapes out there, only require about 1 ½ inches of water a week. By watering 15 minutes a day for 5 days a week, your lawn may be receiving anywhere from 2" to 15" of water!



### Watering your lawn

Most people give their lawns too much water. Not only is that wasteful, but it can

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Your landscape only needs to be watered 3 times a week. Save water and decrease the demand on the City water supply by following the schedule below.

If your address ends in an odd number (1, 3, 5, 7 or 9), water your landscape on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

If your address ends in an even number (2, 4, 6, 8, or 0), water your landscape on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays.

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
even	none	odd	even	odd	even	odd

There may be no need to change the duration of your irrigation. Save water and only irrigate your landscape when it needs it.

Don't forget to tighten the tap!

Fix those leaky toilets, faucets and other leaks.



For more information about irrigation and water see [www.cityofdavis.org/pw/water/conserve](http://www.cityofdavis.org/pw/water/conserve) or call Public Works at 757-5686.



also damage your lawn and leave it more susceptible to pests and disease.

There is a simple way to make sure your lawn is getting the correct amount of water. Place 5 or 6 flat-bottomed containers (such as coffee mugs, tin cans, cake pans, etc.) on your lawn. Distribute them as evenly over your lawn as possible, keeping them at least 2 feet from the sprinkler heads. Turn on the sprinkler system so that the containers begin filling with water. After 15 minutes, turn off the system. Use a ruler or tape measurer to determine the depth of water in each container. The measurements will probably be between 1/8 to 7/8 of an inch. Using the average depth of water in the containers, you can use the chart below as a guideline to determine approximately how many minutes you need to water your lawn each day for your three day a week watering schedule.

Ave. depth in cans (in inches after 15 min.)	Spring (March-April)	Summer (May-Aug.)	Fall (Sept.-Oct.)	Winter (little or no watering required)
1"	4	7	5	
3/4"	5	9	6	
5/8"	6	11	7	
1/2"	8	14	9	
3/8"	11	18	12	
1/4"	16	28	18	
1/8"	32	56	36	

## Irrigation Timers

You only need to worry about your irrigation timer four times a year.

1. In the spring—turn your timer back on to water 3 days a week when the weather warms up and the soil starts to dry out. Your lawn may need approx. 0.7 inches of water per week.
2. In the summer—once it starts getting really warm outside, you can turn up your watering. Your lawn may need approx. 1.3 inches of water per week. Set your timers to stay on a minute or two longer, or better yet, set them to turn on twice on watering day with a 30 minute break in between. This break in watering allows the water to soak into the soil and minimizes the water run-off on the sidewalk.
3. Early fall—as the weather cools down, you can adjust your timers to water less. Your lawn may only need about 0.8 inches of water in the fall.
4. Late fall—When it starts raining, turn your timer off. You don't need to water your landscape when it's raining!

Other ways that you can help save water:

- Do not use water to wash off driveways, sidewalks, buildings.
- Bring your car to a car wash when it's dirty, or use a hose with a control nozzle capable of completely shutting off the flow of water.

## Fix that leak!

Leaks can be the biggest water waster of all. If you feel your water use is high, you can request assistance from the Public Works Department free of charge by calling 757-5686. Public Works staff can determine if there is a leak on your property.