

AUGUST TIP SAVINGS: \$150-\$220/YR

Avoided Emissions of CO₂: Up to 393 lbs./YR (& up to 40,000 gal. saved)



\$USTAINABILITY \$AVINGS TIP

LANDSCAPE WATERING BY THE NUMBERS

Landscape watering as easy as one, two, three

It's August and monsoon season is here, humidity is up and plants are looking a little greener if they made it through our last two months of summers' sizzle. Besides losing a plant or two you've also likely seen some of your largest water bills for the year. Watering properly is not only important to save water and money, but also for the health of your landscape. Water too little and plants can wilt or turn brown; water too much and plants suffer because you starve the roots of oxygen.

Here in the Valley it has been found that up to 70% of water use is outdoors, and that landscapes are often watered three to five times more than needed. That means watering your yard efficiently is one of the best and easiest ways to reduce your water bill. If you're confused about landscape watering, you're not alone. Watering is both an art and a science. Learning a few simple concepts will give you the expertise you need to keep your landscape healthy and beautiful.

You can reduce your landscape watering 30 to 50 percent by adjusting your irrigation each season.

WATERING TIPS

- Use the three steps to sensible landscape watering:
 1. Know how much water your plants need.
 2. Know how much water each part of your watering system applies.
 3. Match your system's output to your plants' needs.
- Place irrigation emitters along a plant's drip line, which is beneath the outer edge of the plant's canopy and where feeder roots are located.
- Water deeply but infrequently to encourage roots to grow more deeply into the soil.
- With sprinklers, avoid watering in the afternoon when more water will evaporate due to sun and wind exposure.

CHECKLIST FOR SAVINGS

- Steps and tips for efficient landscape watering** can be found in our free booklet *Landscape Watering by the Numbers* and online at www.wateruseitwisely.com/arizona.
- Sign up for a free monthly watering reminder** that details how often to water your landscape, visit www.mesaaz.gov/home/listserv.aspx.
- Free Water!** We don't get a lot of rain, but collect what sheds off your roof for over 7,000 gallons a year. Learn about rainwater harvesting at www.mesaaz.gov/conservation or call (480) 644.3306.
- Books on desert landscaping and watering** can be found at City of Mesa Library, visit www.mesalibrary.org/research/living-green.aspx.

\$START \$AVING

Start saving by watering efficiently and doing your part for *building a sustainable community*.

Visit our Web site for more sustainability savings tips at www.mesaaz.gov/sustainability.

Learn to live Green