



Top 10 Ways to Reduce Outdoor Water Use

1. Understand how much water you are applying to the landscape. Place a straight-sided container in your lawn and turn on your sprinklers or irrigation. When the container has 1 inch of water in it, turn off the sprinklers and determine the length of time it took to fill the container. Turf grasses in San Antonio have very different water needs: St. Augustine grass requires 1 inch of water per week, Bermuda grass requires ½ inch per week and Zoysia requires ¾ inch per week. Set your sprinklers or irrigation to run ONLY the number of minutes necessary to apply the correct amount of water. Shady or partially shady turf areas require less water than areas in full sun.
 - a. If your soil depth is less than 6 inches, divide your total watering time over 2 or 3 days per week.
 - b. If your soil depth is more than 6 inches, water once per week to encourage deeper root growth and more drought tolerance.
2. Landscape beds require half as much water as grass areas. Most grassy areas receive ample water with 15 minutes of irrigation and landscape beds, 5 to 7 minutes.
3. Use drought tolerant plants suited for the San Antonio area. Consult your local nursery for the best choices in your landscape.
4. Do not water during or within 48 hours of rainfall. If your lawn receives at least ½” of rainfall, additional water may not be needed for up to 7 days depending on the depth of your soil.
5. Repair leaky or maladjusted sprinkler heads. Sprinklers and sprinkler systems waste 35% of the water that they apply.
 - a. Consider converting pop up sprinkler heads in flowerbeds or landscaped areas to drip irrigation to reduce water use even more.
6. Water before 10am or after 8pm to reduce evaporation. It’s a year-round City of San Antonio Ordinance requirement and BexarMet water rule.
7. Do not over water or allow water to run off of your property and down the street and do not water driveways and sidewalks. Repair leaks as soon as you can...you may be eligible for a leak adjustment on your water bill! Contact our Call Center at (210) 922-1221 for more information on leak adjustments.
8. Keep swimming pools covered at least 25% when not in use. This reduces evaporation and the number of times needed to replenish your pool. Consult your local pool supply dealer for information on evaporation screens for your pool.
9. Do not leave a running hose unattended. Running hoses are forgotten and may run for hours before discovering the waste. Use a hand held hose, bucket or watering can for individual plants or small areas that need additional water. An unattended hose used between 10am and 8pm is considered to be a type of sprinkler and can result in a water rules violation.
10. Use a shut off device on your hose when washing vehicles at home. Use a sponge and bucket when washing your car at home and save up to 90 gallons of water!

For more information on efficient outdoor water use or to schedule an informal sprinkler system audit, contact the BexarMet Water Efficiency Department at (210) 357-5705.