

# HOME OUTDOOR WATER SELF AUDIT



The best way to begin a self audit is to look at your current water bill. You should find a graph showing the last 12 months of usage. If you notice any unusually high usage, think about what might've caused it (guests, remodeling, leaks, etc.). Remember—usage is typically higher in the summer because of the heat, which should be reflected on your bill. If you're interested in doing your own outdoor water audit, please email [conservation@epcor.com](mailto:conservation@epcor.com)

## USE YOUR METER TO CHECK FOR LEAKS.

Most water meters are located in the front of the property near the street. Make sure everything that uses water is turned off (shower, dishwasher, washing machine, automatic pool filler, irrigation system, etc.) and look at your water meter to verify that no water is passing through it (instructions attached). If everything is turned off and the leak indicator is moving, there is likely a leak somewhere on your property (inside or outside).

## CHECK YOUR POOL OR SPA FOR LEAKS (IF YOU HAVE ONE).

- ⦿ Does the pool leak only when the equipment is on?
- ⦿ Does the pool leak only when the equipment is off?
- ⦿ Does the pool leak all the time?
- ⦿ Are there leaks on the equipment pad?
- ⦿ Are there any wet areas around the pool?

## CHECK YOUR IRRIGATION SYSTEM.

**(typically, leaks in the system will show up as a dark spot in a portion of the landscape).**

Walk around your lawn and make a note if the ground feels wet or squishy in spots. It's best to do this a few hours after you irrigate. If you see moss or mushrooms growing, it's a sign that you're watering too much. This occurs most often around the edges of your landscaping.

## CHECK YOUR OUTDOOR FAUCETS AND HOSE BIBS FOR LEAKS.

The ground beneath the hose bib should be dry if it has not been used recently. Likewise, the hose bib and faucet should be dry to the touch.

**QUESTIONS?** Contact our conservation team at [conservation@epcor.com](mailto:conservation@epcor.com) or visit [epcor.com](http://epcor.com).

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## GET WISE WITH THESE WATER-WISE TIPS!

- ◊ Adjust your irrigation timer seasonally – plants need much less water in winter than in summer.
- ◊ Check your irrigation timer and make a note of your watering days, times and length of watering. Communicate with your landscaper to save water and money!
- ◊ To reduce evaporation, water in the early morning or late evening.
- ◊ Most plants in the desert die from overwatering rather than under watering.
- ◊ Water less often, but for a longer period of time. This encourages plants to grow deep roots, making them more stable and healthy.
- ◊ Remember, native plants live in the desert without any irrigation. If you're irrigating native plants, wean them off slowly. Adjusting too quickly can damage or even kill your plants. Watch how your plants react.
- ◊ Turn off your irrigation when it rains. Most irrigation systems have a skip mode, a rain button or a rain setting that allows you to easily curtail irrigation when it rains without changing your irrigation program. If you can't find it, you may want to ask your landscaper.
- ◊ Always keep a hose nozzle on your outdoor hose. This saves water that could leak out of your hose.
- ◊ Use a broom to sweep off sidewalks rather than spraying with a hose.
- ◊ For detailed landscape watering information refer to the booklet *Landscape Watering by the Numbers*, available by request, by emailing [conservation@epcor.com](mailto:conservation@epcor.com).

## How Deep Did I Water?

Follow these steps to understand the level of water penetration that you are achieving.

- ◊ Stick a screwdriver or metal rod into the soil soon after you irrigate.
- ◊ The screwdriver should slide easily through the wet soil and become difficult to push when reaching dry soil.
- ◊ On a typical lawn the screwdriver should penetrate at least 4 inches but not more than 8 inches.
- ◊ In some instances the soil might be too compacted for water to penetrate – you might want to consider aerating.

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