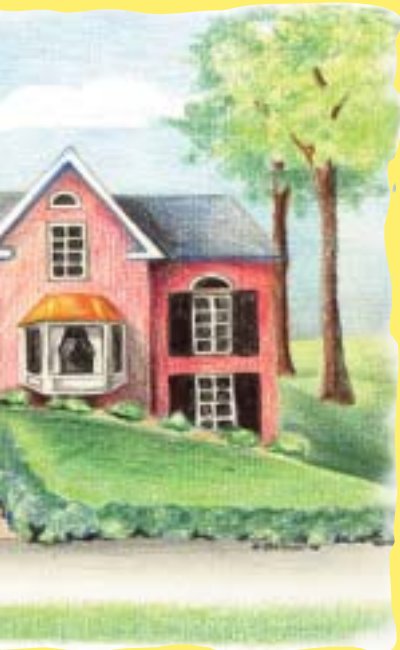


**The Town of Cary's Water Conservation Program** includes a combination of educational, incentive, and regulatory measures to encourage wise water use. This brochure lists indoor and outdoor water-saving tips, initiatives, and watering ordinances. More information about the water conservation program can be found on the town's web site, [www.townofcary.org](http://www.townofcary.org).

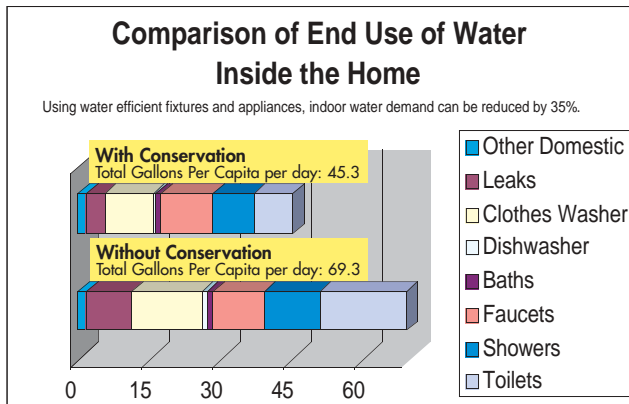


### Reclaimed Water

In June 2001, the Town of Cary became the first municipality in North Carolina to pipe reclaimed water to homes and businesses. Reclaimed water is highly treated wastewater that is distributed to designated customers for limited outdoor uses such as landscape irrigation, industrial cooling, street cleaning, and construction site dust control. The Town of Cary's innovative new utility program reduces the amount of drinking water used for outdoor watering, which will help the Town meet its water conservation goal of a 20 percent reduction in water consumption by 2015.

### Toilet Flapper Rebate Program

Receive up to two (2) \$4.00 credits on your Town of Cary Utility Statement for the purchase of the Frugal Flush® early-closing toilet flapper by Rectorseal. The Frugal Flush® is appropriate for toilets that use a minimum of 3.5 gallons or more per flush—toilets manufactured before 1994. Purchase this water-saving device and pick up a coupon at local Ace Hardware stores and Hemlock True Value Hardware store. To receive credit, include the coupon and store receipt with your next utility payment.



Statistics from Vickers, Amy. Water Use and Conservation. Amherst, MA: WaterFlow Press, 2001.

### Alternate Day Watering Schedule

The Alternate Day Watering schedule is a year round law for all Cary utility customers\*. It is a fundamental regulatory component of the Town's peak demand management and water conservation plan. Throughout the year, customers have the same three days each week to water their landscape according to the chart below. Depending on the type of turf and the amount of rainfall, customers may not need to irrigate at all.

	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su
Odd Addresses		Yes		Yes		Yes	
Even Addresses			Yes		Yes		Yes
Handwatering is allowed any day of the week.							

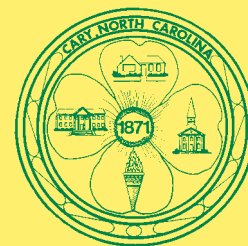
- Odd numbered addresses: If watering your landscape with an automatic irrigation system or sprinkler, follow the Tuesday/Thursday/Saturday option.
- Even numbered addresses: If watering your landscape with an automatic irrigation system or sprinkler, follow the Wednesday/Friday/Sunday option.
- Customers are not allowed to irrigate with automatic irrigation systems or sprinklers on Mondays.
- Handwatering is allowed any day of the week. Hand held devices include, but are not limited to, hoses and watering cans or wands.
- While our goal is compliance and every effort will be made to educate and help customers, if necessary, fines for violating this law are: 1st offense-\$100; 2nd offense-\$250; 3rd offense-\$500; subsequent offenses-\$1000 each.

\*Utility customers who irrigate with reclaimed water are exempt from the Alternate Day Watering Schedule.

## Town of Cary Water Conservation Program



# LET'S BE WATER CONSCIOUS!



**TOWN OF CARY**  
 Department of Public Works and Utilities  
 919-469-4090  
[www.townofcary.org](http://www.townofcary.org)

To better manage our most precious resource, water, the Town of Cary developed a water conservation and demand management program in 1996. The goals of this program are to extend the useful life of our water source, Jordan Lake; delay costly future construction or expansion of water and wastewater treatment facilities; reduce the amount of treated wastewater discharged into the Neuse River Basin; and reduce per capita water consumption 20 percent by 2015.



### Water Waste Ordinance

One regulatory aspect of the Town's water conservation program is Town Code Section 19-47, Waste While Watering. This law prohibits overwatering of landscapes in two ways: directly watering impervious surfaces, such as streets and driveways, to the extent that water leaves the property; and overwatering to the extent that water can no longer be absorbed and causes runoff. While our goal is compliance—and every effort will be made to educate and help customers—if necessary, fines ranging from \$100 to \$500 can be issued for violating the Water Waste Ordinance. Please follow the recommendations in this brochure to prevent water waste.

### Rain Sensor Ordinance

Another regulatory aspect of the Town's water conservation program is Section 19-48, which requires all Town of Cary utility customers to install rain sensors set to 1/4" on their automatic irrigation systems. A small, inexpensive device mounted in an open area outdoors and wired to the common line of your irrigation system, a rain sensor interrupts the cycle when adequate rainfall has been received. This device prevents automatic irrigation systems from running after a 1/4" rainfall. As always, our goal is compliance, but if needed, fines for violating the Rain Sensor Ordinance can be issued and range from \$100 to \$400.

**Most lawns in Cary are a fescue-type turf that requires about an inch of water per week, including rainfall, to achieve optimal health.** If you water regularly, water no more than one inch per week, and adjust watering times based on weekly rainfall amounts. Fescue will go dormant in the summer, but can survive three weeks without water.

**When you do water, water deeply.** Many people water lightly and frequently. This does more harm than good because it creates a shallow root system. Water deeply and infrequently to produce a healthier and deeper root system that is better equipped to withstand heat and drought.

**Employ the "cycle and soak" method to water deeply.** Clay soils accept water slowly. Irrigate an area until just before runoff occurs, wait thirty minutes or irrigate another zone, and then return to the original location to irrigate thoroughly.

**Prepare your soil!** Add organic matter such as compost to clay soil to improve soil structure and enable plants to develop dense root systems. Amending clay soil will increase the health and drought tolerance of turf and plants.

**Use efficient sprinklers.** To reduce evaporation and to maximize watering efficiency, use sprinklers that throw large drops of water close to the ground as opposed to fine mists in the air. Throw out that old oscillating sprinkler and replace it with a rotary, impact, or turbine sprinkler.

**Install drip irrigation systems and soaker hoses to water effectively.** Drip systems slowly direct water to where plants need it most—their roots. Use drip systems and soaker hoses around trees, shrubs, flowers, and gardens.

**If you have an automatic sprinkler system, check the heads regularly.** Keep your sprinklers "tuned up" to prevent costly leaks, help minimize overspray and runoff, and increase the efficiency of your system.

**Delay regular lawn watering during cool weeks of spring.** By waiting to begin irrigating your lawn, you encourage deeper roots and make your lawn healthier for the rest of the summer. It also delays the first time you have to mow the grass.

**Water early in the morning or late at night.** Up to 50 percent of your landscape water can be lost to evaporation if you water during the heat of the day.

**For fescue-type turf, gradually increase your mowing height to a minimum of 3 inches.** Longer grass blades encourage roots to grow deeper, shade the root system, and hold soil moisture better.

**Spread a layer of mulch around trees and plants.** Mulch slows the evaporation of moisture and discourages weed growth.

**Minimize turf areas in your yard by expanding or creating natural areas filled with native, drought-tolerant, or other appropriate vegetation.** Compared to plants and trees, grass is thirsty and high maintenance.

**Plant drought-resistant trees, shrubs, and flowers.** There are many beautiful native and drought-tolerant grasses, ground covers, shrubs, flowers, and trees that are adapted to our area's climate and soil. Once established, they don't need to be watered as frequently, and they usually will tolerate a 2-3 week dry spell without problems.

**Use a broom, not a hose, to clean driveways, decks, and sidewalks.**

**Don't leave the water running while washing your car.** Clean the car with a pail of soapy water, and use a hose with a shutoff nozzle for rinsing.

### Did You Know...?

- Your garden hose can emit 600 gallons of water or more in only a couple of hours. Use a hose timer to turn it off and prevent accidentally wasting thousands of gallons of water overnight.
- If you leave footprints behind when you walk on your lawn, it's a sign that the grass needs water. If your grass turns a dull gray-green color, that's another indication that it needs water. Give that off-color grass a good drink.
- Lawn watering accounts for more than 60 percent of residential water use. The quickest and easiest way to reduce a water bill is to eliminate overwatering and runoff.
- Overwatering causes over **75 percent** of turf problems.

### Signs of Over-Watering

- Soil is constantly damp.
- Leaves or grass turn a lighter shade of green or yellow.
- Young shoots are wilted.
- Leaves are green yet brittle.
- Algae, moss, or mushrooms are growing.
- Stains appear on curb, driveway, or pavement.

## Bathroom

**Don't use your toilet as a trash can or an ashtray.** Useless flushing wastes a significant amount of water and unnecessarily burdens the wastewater collection system. Depending on the age of your toilet, up to five gallons of water can be wasted per flush.

**Repair dripping faucets by replacing washers.** If your faucet drips at the rate of one drop per second, you could waste 2,700 gallons per year.



**Use the minimum amount of water needed for a bath by closing the drain first and filling the tub only 1/3 full.** Plug the tub

before turning on water. Adding hot water later warms the initial burst of cold water.

**Displace water in your toilet tank by making a toilet dam.** Recycle a plastic quart milk container, fill it with water and put it in your toilet tank safely away from the operating mechanisms. In an average home, the bottle may displace 10 gallons or more of water a day. Note: **never** put a brick in the toilet. Bricks tend to disintegrate in the water and can damage plumbing.

**Install low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators.** Call the Department of Public Works and Utilities at (919) 469-4090 to receive a free water flow bag to help you determine if you need a more efficient showerhead or faucet aerator. A flow bag calculates the flow rate of any showerhead or faucet. Replace showerheads or faucet aerators that allow a flow of more than 2.5 gallons per minute.

**Limit the length of your showers to 5 minutes or less.** By reducing showering time by one minute, each person can save over 1,000 gallons per year.

**Check your toilet for leaks.** Leaking toilets can waste up to 200 gallons of water per day. To identify a toilet leak, add several drops of food coloring into the toilet tank or call (919) 469-4090 for a "Toilet Training Tutorial" that includes leak



detector tablets and directions to correct the two most common causes of toilet leaks. If you have a leak, repair it immediately.

**Stop running the water while you are shaving or brushing your teeth.** This wastes more than what one person needs for drinking water in a week.

**Replace pre-1994 toilets with low-flush toilets.** Using a 1.6 gallon per flush toilet can cut your family's indoor water use by as much as 20 percent.

## Kitchen

**Store drinking water in the refrigerator rather than letting the faucet run when you want a cold glass of water.**

**Don't use running water to thaw meat or other frozen foods.** Defrost food overnight in the refrigerator or use the defrost setting on your microwave.

**Start a compost pile.** Garbage disposals require lots of water to operate properly. Composting food scraps will reduce water demand and will create a rich soil amendment for lawns and gardens. For more information about composting, call (919) 469-4090.

**If you wash dishes by hand, don't leave the water running for rinsing.** If you have two sinks, fill one with soapy water and one with rinse water. If you have only one sink, gather washed dishes in a dish rack and rinse them with a sprayer or a panful of hot water.

**Run the dishwasher only when it's fully loaded.** Automatic dishwashers claim the most water in kitchens—about 12 gallons per run.

**Don't let the faucet run when you scrub vegetables or prepare other foods.** Put a stopper in the sink instead.

## Laundry

**Run your washing machine with full loads whenever possible.** Each load of laundry uses between 27 and 54 gallons of water. Or, to reduce water waste, select the appropriate water level for the size of your laundry. Most washers now offer preset levels for small, medium, and large loads.

**Replace old washing machines with new models.** Significant indoor water savings can be achieved by using new, water-efficient washers that only use about 20 gallons of water per load.

