

Play your part, be water smart!

Wise Water Use



TIPS FOR SAVING WATER

When in Drought or Not – Please Do Your Part!



INDOOR WATER USE

1. Choose high-efficiency plumbing products and appliances (look for the WaterSense or Energy Star labels).
2. Turn off water while brushing teeth or shaving: "Never Let the Water Run."
3. Take shorter showers (5 minutes or less) and use water-saving showerheads.
4. Wash only full loads of laundry and dishes.
5. Fix leaks! Dripping faucets and leaking toilets, pipes, and appliances can add up to hundreds of gallons of water lost per week.
6. Create a kitchen compost bin instead of using the garbage disposal.
7. Collect and reuse clean household water (water running while you wait for hot water to reach your faucet or shower; leftover water from cooking, etc.) and use this to water plants.

To check your drought region and status go to:
mass.gov/ma-drought-management

mass.gov/conservEMAwater



**CONSERVE
MA
WATER**

WATER SAVER TIP

SWITCH TO MORE WATER-EFFICIENT APPLIANCES.
Some washing machines use 40-45 gallons per load. Newer, water-efficient models require just 7-15.

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**CONSERVE
MA
WATER**

WATER SAVER TIP

FIND AND FIX LEAKY FAUCETS AND TOILETS.
The average leaky toilet can waste about 200 gallons of water per day. That's over 6,000 gallons a month for just one leaking toilet!


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A young girl with dark hair is brushing her teeth with an orange toothbrush. She is standing at a white sink with a chrome faucet. On the counter, there is a large orange cup and a smaller blue cup. A toothbrush holder with a blue toothbrush is also visible. In the background, a circular logo with the text 'CONSERVE MA WATER' is partially visible.

WATER SAVER TIP

DON'T LEAVE THE WATER RUNNING.
Wet your toothbrush and then turn the water off while you apply paste and brush. You can turn it back on when you're ready to rinse.

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A close-up shot of a chrome faucet with a single drop of water falling from the spout. The background is a warm, orange-brown color.

WATER SAVER TIP

ADD A FAUCET AERATOR
Installing simple aerators on bathroom faucets can save 2-16 gallons per day, per faucet. Find them at your local hardware store or online.

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TIPS FOR SAVING WATER

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OUTDOOR WATER USE



1 LIMIT LAWN WATERING, ESPECIALLY DURING A DROUGHT¹

Lawns naturally go dormant during dry conditions. They'll revive when conditions improve.

- If you are in a region at Drought Level 3, **Critical Drought** (Severe Drought Conditions) or Drought Level 4, **Emergency Drought**: Do not water your lawn.
- If you are in a region at Drought Level 2, **Significant Drought** (Moderate to Severe Drought): Limit watering to hand-held only or drip irrigation. Water after 5PM or before 9AM to avoid evaporative losses.
- If you are in a region at Drought Level 1, **Mild Drought** (Abnormally Dry Conditions): Limit watering to 1 day per week at most. Water after 5PM or before 9AM.



2 MINIMIZE LANDSCAPE WATER NEEDS THROUGH WATER-SMART LANDSCAPING PRINCIPLES²

- Maintain healthy soils (a minimum of 6-inches in depth, where possible).
- Choose native plants or plants and turf that need less water.
- Use mulch to reduce evaporation and moderate soil temperature.
- Leave grass clippings on lawn to shade and return nutrients to soil.



3 MINIMIZE YOUR USE OF WATER OUTDOORS

- Sweep driveways, walks, patios, and other outdoor areas with a broom rather than hosing them off.
- Wash vehicles using a bucket and sponge, employing a hose with a shut-off nozzle for rinse only, or, if available, use a commercial car wash that recycles water (most do).
- Cover swimming pools when not in use to prevent evaporation.

¹ Certain water uses are not subject to mandatory restrictions, such as water used: for health or safety reasons; for the production of food and fiber; for the maintenance of livestock; to meet the core functions of a business (for example, irrigation by plant nurseries as necessary to maintain stock).

² Adapted from Water-Smart Landscapes Start with WaterSense (EPA WaterSense).

To check your drought region and status go to:
mass.gov/ma-drought-management

 mass.gov/conservema-water



WATER SAVER TIP

BROWN LAWN?

When well-established lawns turn golden brown, they're not dead. They've gone dormant and will green up again when it rains. This actually deepens the roots and makes the lawn more drought resistant.



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WATER SAVER TIP

DROP FOR DROP

During a drought, let your lawn turn golden, making it more resilient to drying conditions. It will green back up when rain returns!

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WATER SAVER TIP

HAND WATER DURING LEVEL 2-SIGNIFICANT DROUGHT
Sprinklers and irrigation systems place a big demand on wells and public water systems. That's why the state guidance calls for only hand watering during this period of drought.



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WATER SAVER TIP

COMPLY WITH WATER RESTRICTIONS
During a Level 2-Significant Drought water restrictions (hand held only) ensure there's enough for wildlife, people, and fire protection.



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WATER SAVER TIP

PICK UP A BROOM

Sweep (don't hose) sidewalks and driveways clean.

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