

Prevent water waste: Use every drop

- Sweep your driveway instead of spraying it clean with water
- Use a bucket, sponge and sprayer on the end of a hose when washing your car.
- Reuse “gray” water from tubs, basins and laundry to apply to vegetation.
- Make sure faucets and hoses are turned off completely when not in use.



- Regularly check to verify your sprinkler system is operating properly, specifically looking for broken sprinkler heads and leaky valves.
- Regularly check that your sprinklers are aimed properly to make sure they aren't watering streets and sidewalks.
- Turn off your sprinklers in rainy or windy conditions.

Additional resources:

Benton Conservation District at:

<http://www.bentoncd.org/>

And the Washington State University Extension Office at:

<http://extension.wsu.edu/>

Important reminders from KID:

*Canals **are not** for play —
Stay away!*

**Child safety is a community concern.
Together we can help prevent tragedy:**

- Drowning is the second leading cause of death in children between the ages of 5 and 14 in Washington State.
- Constant adult supervision for children in or around water is the number one safety tool against drowning.

Parents and caregivers, help children understand the dangers of irrigation canals and if you must be in an area near canals, please take every safety precaution:

- Stay off canal roads and avoid entering the irrigation canal for any reason, even when canals are empty!
- Always walk your bike & leash your pets near canals.
- Do not walk along the sides of canals!

Remember that irrigation water is raw river water and

may contain harmful microbial contaminants

that should not be ingested.

Avoid playing in irrigation water and

do not use irrigation water to fill pools.

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TRAINING YOUR LAWN

Tips for retraining your lawn to need less water



Brought to you by the

Kennewick Irrigation District

Re-train your lawn to need less water...Water deeply to encourage deep root growth

Stronger lawns and landscaping begin with training.

We live in a desert and average around 7" of precipitation annually. Lawns and landscaping can be re-trained to adapt to reduced water amounts.



Most lawns in the Kennewick Irrigation District grow within the first foot of soil, so keeping soil appropriately moist will help encourage healthier more drought tolerant lawns and landscaping. Overwatering through frequent shallow watering encourages weed germination and causes roots to grow shallow leaving the plant more susceptible to drought and diseases. The goal is to apply enough water each time to penetrate the root zone. Timing your watering schedule for when it is needed encourages the roots to grow deeper.



Generally, bluegrass lawn should be watered to moisten the soil 6 to 8 inches down. Most other grasses should be watered to allow water to penetrate 8 to 12 inches.

However, you can determine how long you will need to water by running your sprinkler for 15 minutes. The goal is to water less often for no more than 30 minutes per watering session, determine the length of your watering sessions by how deeply the water was absorbed after using the *15 minute method*.



After running your sprinkler for 15 minutes, wait 18 to 24 hours and then measure how deeply the water soaked in. Use a moisture probe, dig a small hole in the watered area, or push a shovel into the ground and use it as a lever to spread the soil



If your soil is damp to 4 inches below the surface after using the 15 minute method but you need to water to a depth of 8 inches, you will need to water for 30 minutes each time you water.

Alternately, estimate based on your soil type. Generally, 1 inch of water will penetrate sandy soils up to 12 inches. Loamy soils should measure about 6 to 8 inches of water penetration and clay soils about 4 inches.

In general, sandy soils may require watering 3 times per week for approximately 20 minutes each time. For loamy soils, water 2 times per



You are over watering if you notice excess water on streets or on your sidewalk, see areas of flooding or over saturation in your lawn, or find fungus growths (mushrooms) in your lawn.