



## ARE YOU DOING YOUR PART TO CONSERVE WATER?

Even though we've fortunately avoided 2023 drought in the Lowcountry for now, we remain at risk. Drought.gov states that drought in the southeastern U.S. can develop rapidly and is expected to increase because of higher temperatures as well as the increases in population, industry, and urban land use.

Conserving water, as families and individuals, not only results in utility cost savings, it also helps to prevent pollution in our lakes, rivers, and the local watershed. **And it does not require any significant cost outlay.** So what can we do to be part of this water-saving effort? Two websites have helpful information:

- <https://learn.eartheasy.com/guides/45-ways-to- conserve-water-in-the-home-and-yard/>
- <https://cityofgearhart.wordpress.com/2023/05/17/are-you-doing-your-part-to- conserve-water/>

This article outlines steps you may take outside your house. Watch for a future article with tips for water conservation inside.

1. Enroll in Mt. Pleasant Waterworks' WaterSmart program to receive reports on your water usage and detect possible leaks (<https://mpwonline.watersmart.com/index.php/welcome>).
2. Maintain your irrigation system, and adjust irrigation to conserve water. For our area, 1-1.5 inches of water per week, combining rainfall and irrigation, is adequate. Watering less frequently for longer periods is more beneficial to plants. Soil should be wet to a depth of 6-8 inches.
3. Water during the early part of the day, when cooler temperatures decrease evaporation.
4. Water lawns separately from other plants, since shrubs and perennials require about half as much water as grass.
5. Don't mix different types of sprinkler heads in the same irrigation zone. Each type emits water at a different rate.
6. Consider installing rain sensors or a smart irrigation controller.
7. If you wash your car at home, don't let the hose run while washing.
8. Use drought-resistant grass and plants, and mulch around trees and shrubs to retain water. Add organic materials to your garden bed to increase absorption and water retention.

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THE OFFICIAL NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2023

I'on Eco

Group

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