

Conserving water while staying at home

Are you using more water now than before the COVID-19 pandemic started? Have your water use patterns changed?

For many of us, the answer to these questions is YES! We are using more water because we are staying home, and our patterns of use are a little different. We are doing more laundry, the entire family is using the bathroom throughout the day, and dishes seem to multiply as we are doing more cooking. And yes, many of us are spending more time tending to our landscapes.



The next question: Can you conserve water while staying home? Again, the answer is YES! Now is the perfect time to engage the entire family in saving water and finding creative ways to be more efficient.

Indoor tips:

- Designate a glass for the day for each family member to avoid unnecessary glasses piling up in the sink.
- Encourage short showers. Kids love competition, so make a game out of it. You can even tally up times on a chart for all to see.
- How about collecting shower water before it gets hot? Use that water to mop the floor or water plants.
- Use the right-sized pot to cook. Many times, we use more water than needed to cook vegetables or pasta. Once cooled, you can also use that water on your plants.

Outdoor tips:

- Change the amount of water and frequency of irrigation. Check to see if the plants really need watering. Many times, irrigation systems are set to water, whether or not it's needed.
- Raise the height of the mower when cutting grass. You should not be removing more than 1/3 of the growth. This allows for the grass to shade itself.
- In evaporative cooling systems, the unit "bleeds" water for the length of time the system is turned on. Try directing that bleed-off to water to the landscape.
- Be sure to avoid watering outdoor plants in the middle of the day since much of that water will evaporate.

Featured Landscape Plant

Chocolate Daisy
Berlandiera lyrata

Description found at [El Paso Desert Blooms](#)

This perennial grows quickly to 1' x 2'. It will bloom from spring to fall with yellow daisy-like flowers, which have a distinctive chocolate scent. It requires full sun to part shade. It is native to the southwest U.S. and Mexico.



Photo by Anai Padilla

Looking for activities to do with your children?

Visit the Tech₂O Learning Center website for [resources](#) and [activities](#) that you can do with your children while staying at home and helping to do your part to prevent the spread of COVID-19.



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