

Remember, You Can Save Water!

Did you know that individually we use about 77 gallons of water each day? In spite of the dry summer we are having, it's important to remember that overwatering our lawns can easily carry pollution to the storm drains and then to our lakes and streams. By using less water on our lawns we can help prevent some of this pollution. And remember, saving water also saves money!

Here are some simple steps you can take to use less water to maintain a healthy lawn and help keep our water clean. Give them a try. A few simple changes can make a big difference!

Water wisely. Generally, your lawn needs about an inch of water a week. Overwatering lawns results in shallow-rooted plants that are less tolerant of heat and drought, and more prone to disease. Avoid overwatering by using a rain gauge and watering only when necessary, instead of on a fixed schedule.

Improve your aim. Adjust your sprinklers to water only your lawn and plants — not your driveway, sidewalk, or street.

Use mulch. Place a thick layer of mulch (e.g., four inches) around trees and plants. This helps retain water, reduce weeds, and minimize the need for pesticides.

Sweep it. Clean sidewalks and driveways with a broom, instead of a hose. You'll save water and keep unwanted pollutants out of the storm drain.

Put rainwater to work. Use rainwater to water your plants. Direct downspouts toward your plants and green areas or collect water with rain barrels for use later.

Mow high. Make your lawn cheaper and easier to maintain by mowing high (three inches is recommended). Longer grass has deeper roots and requires less water.

There are several simple steps we can all take to help keep our water clean.

See www.semco.org/OursToProtect.aspx for additional information.