

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Tips for Outdoor Water Conservation Best Management Practices

- Use an outdoor sprinkler systems as they typically use less water than watering by hand. The water is applied consistently for a specific (timed) period of time.
- Use an automatic watering sprinkler system equipped with rain sensors. They detect when it is raining and will not activate when it is raining. This prevents watering in the rain!
- Check the automatic sprinkler system monthly during the watering/sprinkler season to make sure all of the components are not damaged or broken and are working properly.
- Use a timer when a hose or hose attachment is used to water the outside plants or lawn to prevent over watering.
- Apply mulch to the plant/garden beds. Mulch helps the soil retain water, requiring less supplemental water during the growing season, typically spring and summer.
- Apply compost to the lawn. Applying compost to your lawn helps maintain consistent water soil moisture.



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- Have the blade height on the lawn mower set at 2". This is considered a mulch mow. **Don't ever inspect the bottom side of a mower while it is running. Ask an adult for help with this.** The clippings from mulch mowing are cut into fine pieces that fall easily to the soil. There, they can be rapidly broken down by soil microorganisms, which release nutrients from the mulched plant material back into the soil.
- Pull weeds by hand rather than applying chemicals. Chemicals that are used to kill weeds can be toxic to aquatic systems in nearby water ways. Chemicals are transported from your lawn to water ways through run off caused by overwatering and rainwater. They can also be toxic to humans and pets.

