

Village of South Barrington

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Water Conservation Saves Money

The Village of South Barrington urges residents to conserve water. It is good for the environment and it saves money on your water bill.

A lawn irrigation system can use between 600 and 1,000 gallons of water each hour. Watering your lawn for only one hour per day can add between \$162 and \$270 to your bi-monthly water bill.



An average family may use 350 gallons of water per day. One hour of lawn irrigation per day will add between 600 and 1,000 gallons to that usage. One hour of lawn irrigation each day can triple or quadruple your water bill

South Barrington Utility Rates

Water Usage Rate: \$4.50 per 1,000 gallons

Sewer Usage Rate: \$3.00 per 1,000 gallons

additional monthly fees apply

Residents with a lawn irrigation meter will not pay the Sewer Usage Rate on water used for lawn irrigation.

- An average family that uses **350 gallons** of water per day without lawn irrigation can anticipate a bi-monthly water usage charge of **\$94.50**
- A family with water usage of **350 gallons** per day plus **600 gallons** for irrigation can anticipate a bi-monthly water usage charge of **\$256.50**
- A family with water usage of **350 gallons** per day plus **1,000 gallons** for irrigation can anticipate a bi-monthly water usage charge of **\$364.50**

**The above indicate only the charge for water usage.
It does not include sewer charges and other monthly fees**

Water Conservation Tips

Plant drought resistant trees and plants:

Landscape with plants that require less water. These plants can be very attractive and can survive drought better than turf. Rocks, gravel, benches, and deck areas can all be used to creatively decorate the yard.

Choose an Automatic Irrigation System

An automatic sprinkler system can be set to water the lawn for a specified amount of time. This saves your time and waters the lawn evenly. If you don't have an automatic sprinkling system, set a kitchen timer. A lot of water can be wasted in a short period of time if you forget to turn your sprinklers off. Outdoor faucets can flow at rates as high as 300 gallons per hour.

Spot water

Drier areas require more water than areas where water settles. If necessary, water dry areas by hand.

Use a soil probe to test soil moisture

Water only when a soil probe shows dry soil or a screwdriver is difficult to push into the soil.

Water the lawn only when needed

Step on the grass; if it springs back up when you move your foot, it does not need water.

Don't water the pavement

Position sprinklers so that water lands on the lawn or garden, not in areas where it is not needed. Also avoid watering when it is windy. Wind causes water to evaporate quickly and blows water onto areas where it is not needed. Remember, if it doesn't grow, don't water it!

Water without waste

Interrupt watering when puddles or runoff occur. This allows the water to penetrate into the soil before resuming irrigation.

Consider drip irrigation systems around trees and shrubs

Drip systems permit water to flow slowly to roots, encouraging strong root systems. These systems will also cut down evaporation.

Keep lawn free of weeds

Weeds are water thieves and will rob your plants of water and nutrients. Spot spray or remove weeds as they appear.

Accept a less than lush lawn

Grass will naturally go dormant during periods of drought, but will readily regenerate when water becomes available. Reduce traffic on stressed turf areas if possible.

Match fertilizer to the plant requirement

Fertilizer applications require additional water. Excess fertilizer stimulates top growth, often to the detriment of the root system. Learn to accept turf grasses with low water needs.

Mow as infrequently as possible

Mowing puts the grass under additional stress that requires more water.

Mow higher than normal

Longer leaf surfaces promote deeper rooting and shade the root zone. Never remove more than 1/3 of the leaf blade in one mowing. Return mulched clippings to the lawn.

Use a broom to clean the driveway and sidewalk

Sweeping the driveway and sidewalk will get them clean enough without wasting gallons of water.

Don't let the water run while washing the car

Get the car wet, then turn off the water while you soap the car down using a bucket of soapy water. Turn on the water again for a final rinse. Use the bucket of soapy water on the flower bed or garden.

Check for leaks in pipes, hoses, and faucet

All leaks cause water to be wasted. Repair or replace any equipment leaking water.

Use shut-off nozzles on hoses

Shut-off nozzles completely turn off the water when you are not using it. Move sprinkler heads away from curbs or sidewalks. A mulch, bark, or rock area at least 8 inches wide adjacent to sidewalks and curbs will help eliminate water waste.