



Connected

Get the Most from Your Garden and Your Utility Budget this Spring and Summer through Smart Watering

Warmer weather signals a brand new growing season and a new opportunity to maximize your water consumption. By using water smartly, you can enjoy a beautiful, bountiful garden right through fall without a bountiful bill. Enjoy lush lawns and eye-catching container and vegetable gardens while conserving money and water. Here are eight ways you can accomplish both.



Lush Lawns:

- Adjust your lawn mower to a higher setting. A taller lawn shades roots and holds moisture better than a shorter lawn.
- Avoid watering your lawn on windy days when most of the water blows away or evaporates.
- Check your sprinkler system for leaks and broken sprinkler heads and repair promptly, if necessary. Adjust sprinkler heads to prevent overspray on sidewalks or roadways. Also consider using a soaker hose instead of a sprinkler. Soaker hoses more efficiently disperse water to the soil.
- Aerate your lawn at least once a year so water can reach the roots instead of running off the surface.



Eye-Catching Container and Vegetable Gardens:

- Potted plants sitting on concrete or asphalt surfaces during hot weather will lose water more quickly. If possible, move containers away from these areas.
- Water container plants thoroughly until water seeps from drainage holes. Thorough watering encourages deep roots resulting in less frequent watering needs. Apply water directly to the soil instead of showering foliage.
- Group plants with the same watering needs to avoid over watering some and under watering others.
- Use a layer of mulch on the surface of your planting beds to retain moisture and minimize weed growth that competes for water.

Remember: One of the best ways to conserve water outdoors is to take advantage of spring and summer rains. A vegetable garden generally requires about an inch of rain a week to do well. If we've had a good soaking shower, you can probably skip one of your regularly scheduled waterings. To minimize evaporation, water your lawn and garden in the morning when temperatures are cooler.

For more water conservation tips, visit the Marietta Power and Water website at www.mariettopowerandwater.com.

Discover the Multitude of Money and Energy Saving Opportunities Waiting for You in Each Room of Your Home

While adjusting the thermostat a few degrees can go a long way in preserving your utility budget, there are a number of other opportunities to save money and energy throughout your home that you may be missing. Here's a look at a few that may be going unnoticed.



Kitchen:

Consider other alternatives to the stove and oven when cooking. Microwave ovens use 50 percent less energy than conventional

ovens. Pressure cookers and electric slow cookers also save energy by reducing cooking time. Electric pans and toaster ovens require only a third of the energy used on a full-sized oven or stove.

Using the correct size pot on stove burners can save about \$36 annually for an electric range and \$18 for a gas range. When cooking on the stove, cover pots and pans — food cooks more efficiently and your kitchen will stay cooler in warm weather.

Family Room:

Keep your fireplace damper closed tightly when not in use to reduce air loss through the chimney.

Many electronics use energy in standby mode even when turned off. Plug TVs and DVD players into a power strip so that you can turn off power at one time. Unplug any battery chargers or power adapters when not in use.

Laundry Room:

Water heating accounts for 90 percent of the energy used by washing machines. By washing in cold water

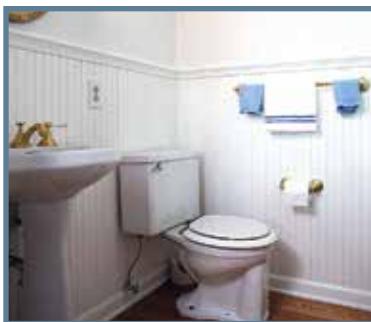
and using cold-water detergents, you can reduce your energy use by over half per load of laundry.

Separate wash loads into light and heavy fabrics for the shortest drying times. Be sure to clean the lint filter after each use. Also, air-dry your lightest fabrics.

Bedroom:

Operate ceiling fans at bedtime so that you can adjust the thermostat for even more savings at night.

Use compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) for a 75 percent energy reduction. Lasting about 10 times longer than an incandescent bulb, a CFL will save about \$30 over its lifetime and pay for itself in about 6 months.



Bathroom:

Replace your standard showerhead using up to 8 gallons per minute with a quality, low-flow showerhead that uses only 1 to 2

gallons of water. Limit showers to 10 minutes or less for even more savings.

Fix leaky sink, tub or shower faucets and save about 10 to 20 gallons of water per day.

Saving money and energy is easy — if you know where to look. Use these tips and start seeing a difference in your utility bill right away.

For more ideas on saving energy, visit www.mariettapowerandwater.com. 💧

Calendar

May 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30

Brown Bag Concert Series
Glover Park in Marietta Square
Noon until 1 p.m.
For information call (770) 794-5601 or visit www.mariettaga.gov.

May 4 and 5

May-retta Daze Arts & Crafts Festival
Marietta Square
Saturday, 10 a.m. until 6 p.m.
Sunday, 11 a.m. until 5 p.m.
For information call (770) 794-5601 or visit www.mariettaga.gov.

Friday, May 31

Glover Park Concert Series
The Glow Band (Variety and Classic Rock)
Glover Park in Marietta Square
8 p.m.
For information call (770) 794-5601 or visit www.mariettaga.gov.

For a complete list of City of Marietta events, please visit www.mariettaga.gov and click on Calendar of Events.

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