

# Ridgewood Water Conservation Tips

## 1 Running Water is Wasted Water

*There are many instances where people leave water running, wasting gallon after gallon with nothing to show for it.*

- With the hose: Wash the car using a bucket of water and sponge. Use your hose only to rinse. Clear the driveway by sweeping instead of spraying.
- At the sink: Wash dishes, pans, fruits and vegetables in basins and not with running water. Shave and brush teeth with the water off.
- Limit showers to 5 minutes.

## 2 How to be EXEMPT from Water Restrictions

*Install a qualified underground “dripline” system or “smart” controller to your existing irrigation system. Both can automatically deliver water as needed and are exempt from local water restrictions except in emergencies!*

## 3 Your Toilet is a Water Thief

- Check your toilet for leaks. There are free testing tablets available upon request from Ridgewood Water. A leaky toilet can waste 200 gallons of water per day!
- Never use your toilet as an ashtray or wastebasket. Every flush can waste up to 5 gallons!

## 4 Your Yard: The Water Wonder

*Watering more effectively means watering less frequently, which can save thousands of gallons of water per week in peak seasons.*

- Water at cool, calm parts of day and deeply soak lawn and gardens.
- If you do not have an irrigation system, use sprinklers that shoot horizontally, avoiding pavement and sidewalks.
- Don't cut the grass too short; longer grass means less evaporation.
- Plant drought-resistant trees and plants.
- Use a layer of mulch around plants and trees to retain moisture.
- Install a rain barrel to capture water for irrigation uses later.

## 5 Water Managed is Water Saved

- Check pipes, hoses, sprinklers, fittings, and faucets for leaks.
- Set washers to appropriate load size.
- Cover your pool to slow evaporation.
- Install water-saving shower heads or flow restrictors.

## 6 Irrigation Systems Pay For Themselves

*Systems using a “smart” controller are 30-50% more efficient than conventional sprinklers. Below ground “dripline” irrigation systems are 90% - 95% efficient. Not only do they give you a healthier, greener lawn, they save thousands of gallons of water, and hundreds or thousands of dollars per year on water bills.*


## 7 Become a Water Conservation Fanatic!

*Here are some things you can do to push the envelope on water conservation. These ideas don't take long and they save plenty of water.*


- While waiting for hot tap water, catch flow in basin and use for watering plants or other use.
- Place plastic bottles filled with sand and water in your toilet tank.
- Bathe in no more than 3 inches of water.




# Ridgewood Water Facts




**1 In Summer, Ridgewood Water Demand Rises from 5 Million to 15 Million Gallons Per Day**  
Summer water use, predominately related to lawn watering, rises nearly 10 million gallons over water demand in winter. Ridgewood Water's pumping capacity when all wells are running is 12 million gallons per day.




**2 Ridgewood Water Rocks...Literally**  
Ridgewood Water's supply comes from an aquifer, tapped by 52 groundwater wells. The rock aquifer is an underground layer of water-bearing permeable rock which consists of small spaces or fractures that are capable of retaining water. Since it is almost entirely dependent on rainwater for replenishment, capacity can be limited during summer months when water use increases dramatically, requiring Ridgewood Water to impose mandatory water restrictions.




**3 Drought or No Drought: Conserving Water is Always Smart**  
Ridgewood Water's long-term renewal effort will increase supply and emphasize conservation, including enacting new water conservation rules in each of the municipalities we serve.




**4 Private Wells Tap The Same Water Source as Ridgewood Water**  
Because private wells in our water supply district draw off the same aquifer as the public water supply, private wells will be subject to water restrictions. The good news is, if you have a qualifying irrigation system, restrictions will be waived unless emergency measures are enacted.



**5 Ridgewood Water Purchases 10% of Its Water**  
Demand from the Ridgewood Water service area is so high in the summer months, mostly due to lawn watering, that the utility is forced to purchase water from adjoining systems at a premium, increasing water costs.



**6 Your Lawn Only Needs 1" of Water Per Week**  
Residents not using "smart" controllers for their irrigation systems waste from 30% - 50% of their watering volume due to evaporation, watering sidewalks and driveways, and over-watering. Too much water leads to shallow roots and unhealthy lawns. It might seem like you are doing your grass a favor with the extra water, but you're hurting it and leaving it more vulnerable when restrictions are enacted.



**7 Two-Day per Week Watering Remains in Effect**  
Demand impacts the aquifer that feeds Ridgewood Water's system. Overuse affects water quality, volume, and pressure. As a result, two day per week watering has been made permanent to protect public health and fire safety.