As temperatures rise in the summer, so does our outdoor water use, mostly on lawns and landscapes.

29 billion gallons of daily household water use across the U.S.

9 billion gallons come from daily residential outdoor water use, mainly for landscape irrigation.

Water use spikes in the summer!

Average family’s water use: 320 gallons per day

During the summer, can be up to 1,000 gallons per day — equal to leaving a garden hose running for nearly 8 hours!

Some even use up to 3,000 gallons per day

= 100 gallons

Step on the lawn: if the grass springs back, it doesn’t need water.

Step on it: Longer grass promotes a more drought-resistant lawn, reduced evaporation, and fewer weeds.

Leave it long: Grass isn’t really meant to be bright green in the summer.

Take a sprinkler break: Simple Things Irrigation System Owners Can Do

 Homes with automatic irrigation systems can use about 50% more water outdoors.

Timing is everything:

Plan to water in the early morning or evening to beat daytime evaporation.

Go with a pro:

Contractors certified through a WaterSense labeled program can audit, install, or maintain home irrigation systems so no water is wasted.

Look for the label:

If your system uses a clock timer, consider upgrading to a WaterSense labeled controller that acts like a thermostat for your lawn, using local weather data to determine when and how much to water. They can reduce irrigation water use by 15%, saving nearly 8,800 gallons of water per year.

Tune up your system:

Inspect irrigation systems, and fix leaks and broken or clogged sprinkler heads.

Make sure you’re watering the lawn, not the sidewalk or driveway!

WaterSense, a partnership program by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, seeks to protect the future of our nation’s water supply. For more tips on reducing outdoor water use, visit www.epa.gov/watersense/outdoor.