



# Water Smarts

## Tips for using irrigation water more efficiently

### WATERING

- ♣ Install rain sensors on sprinkler systems.
- ♣ Adjust irrigation timers according to seasonal needs.
- ♣ Detect and repair all leaks in irrigation systems.
- ♣ Water trees and shrubs, which have deep root systems, longer and less frequently than shallow-rooted plants which require smaller amounts of water more often.
- ♣ Set sprinklers to water the lawn or garden only — not the street or sidewalk.
- ♣ Water the lawn or garden during the coolest part of the day (early morning is best). Do not water on windy days.
- ♣ Use properly treated wastewater for irrigation where available.
- ♣ Have system serviced regularly.



### MAINTAINING

- ♣ Use mulch around shrubs and garden plants to reduce evaporation from the soil surface and cut down on weed growth.
- ♣ Remove thatch and aerate turf to encourage movement of water to the root zone.
- ♣ Raise your lawn mower cutting height — longer grass blades help shade each other, cutting down on evaporation. They also inhibit weed growth.

### ORNAMENTAL WATER FEATURES

- ♣ Do not install or use ornamental water features unless they recycle the water.