

SAVING WATER IN THE GARDEN



- Be sprinkler savvy, we all love our gardens, but sprinklers can use as much as 1000 liters of water per hour – that’s more than a family of four can use in a whole day. Using your sprinkler early in the morning or late in the evening will mean less water will evaporate from your garden and more will get to the roots, where you actually want it to go.
- You can with a watering can, your hosepipe can gush as much as 18 litres of water a minute. By using a watering can in your garden, you can significantly reduce the amount of water wasted, or consider fitting your hosepipe with a trigger gun to control the flow.
- Invest in a water butt, your roof could collect about 85 000 litres of rain each year which then just runs straight into the drains or sewers. This could fill 450 water butts with free water. You could water your garden, your houseplants, or wash your car for free!
- Magnificent mulch, mulching is one of the greatest things you can do for your garden. Mulches such as pebbles, gravel, cocoa shell, chipped bark, and grass clippings should be applied as a five to eight-centimeter layer but do avoid mulching too close to plant stems as this can lead to rotting in winter. Mulching will not only keep away water-loving weeds, but it will also keep the soil cool, decrease evaporation, and reduce soil compaction.
- Soak don’t sprinkle: giving your plant roots a good soaking once or twice a week in dry weather is much better than lightly watering them every day because most of that water just evaporates away. Do remember, though, that new plants need regular watering until they are established.
- Let grass grow a little longer in hot weather to prevent it drying out. You could also raise the cutting height of your lawn mower. Remember that if the lawn turns brown in dry weather you do not need to worry. It will green up when the rain returns.
- The bucket and sponge approach: rather than washing your car with a running hosepipe, try using a bucket and sponge instead. (Better still, fill the bucket up with water from the water butt). Just one hour with a hosepipe will use more water than the average family of four uses in a day. And, using a bucket will give your car a much more precise wash.



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