

The Albemarle County Service Authority and City of Charlottesville

Ask You to Remember:

Taking a few steps to conserve water not only saves water... but saves energy, treatment costs, and *can save you cash!*

\$300 Rebate!

ACSA and the city offer up to \$100 per toilet (maximum of three) to customers who replace older, water guzzling toilets with new, low-flow (1.6 gallons per flush or less) toilets.

Must be an ACSA and city customer.

Must own and occupy home, or be a renter directly responsible for the utility bill.

Toilet(s) being replaced must be older generation (greater than 1.6 gallons per flush) installed prior to 1994.

New toilet(s) must be installed and an itemized receipt, along with the completed rebate form, must be submitted to ACSA and the city within 60 days of receiving pre-approval.

Call the ACSA (County customers) at 977-4511 or Public Utilities (City customers) at 970-3827 to find out more information, or visit our websites at www.serviceauthority.org or www.charlottesville.org/waterconservation



\$30 Rebate for Purchase of Rain Barrel!

The ACSA and the city offer up to two, \$30 rebates for purchase of rain barrels. You may choose any vendors from any source. Purchase receipt is required. You can find a list of vendors on our website, listed above. In order to participate in the rebate program, you must be a customer of the Albemarle County Service Authority or the city.

Rainwater harvesting is a very old concept with a new application! A rain barrel collects and stores rainwater from rooftops to be used for non-drinking purposes later. Rainwater is ideal for many applications, including watering vegetable gardens, raised planter beds, indoor tropical plants like ferns and orchids, car washing and cleaning windows, siding, and lawn and patio furniture. Plants thrive from irrigation with stored rainwater. Most importantly from the public utility's standpoint, rainwater harvesting reduces summer demand peaks, reduces demand for treated tap water, and helps decrease the burden on water treatment facilities.

CONSERVATION TIPS FOR SWIMMING POOLS

BACKWASH BETTER

Backwash only when indicated by a change in pressure (once every 3-4 months is usually enough for a residential pool), and only for as long as it takes for the water in the sight glass to run clear. If your pressure reading is still high -- 8 to 10 pounds over the "clean" pressure, your filter needs to be cleaned. Sand filters need cleaning or replacing every 5 years.

REFILL RIGHT

Spring and Fall are the best times to refill your pool. Refilling then won't put a strain on the water system or affect your wastewater average, which is calculated between November and March.

TOPPING OFF

When topping off, use a hose timer to avoid overfilling. Add a few inches as needed on your scheduled watering day to maintain constant water levels. Auto-fill devices can malfunction and add water unnecessarily. Using a hose makes it easier to tell if a leak develops or the pool level changes dramatically.

REDUCE WATER LOSS

Surround your pool with shrubs or fences and turn off waterfalls or fountains to cut water loss from wind evaporation. During the winter, safety covers can keep out debris, while lightweight "bubble" covers are suitable for spring and fall.

CONSERVATION TIPS FOR LANDSCAPES:

- Mow your grass at a higher length (so that it is longer.) While there is some debate about whether this saves much water, scalping the grass off at a low height is definitely not good for the vigor and health of the grass. Longer grass has deeper, stronger roots and is more resistant to disease and drought. Most grass should be mowed to a length of no less than 3 inches.
- Dethatch and/or aerate your lawn. Lawn aeration helps assure that the water can penetrate easily into the soil, over time the soil surface can become very compacted and water will not easily penetrate it.
- Reduce the use of fertilizers. Fertilizers encourage rapid growth which results in higher water use. Cut back on fertilizer application amounts to the minimum needed.
- Add a layer of mulch to shrub beds. A 2 or 3 inches deep layer of mulch, such as wood chips, bark, almond hulls, or even decorative rock, reduces water use and also reduces the number of weeds.

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