

Simply Beautiful:

Ensuring your Water Smart Landscape's success in the first few months

Thank you for your conversion to a Water Smart Landscape! Along with your enclosed program rebate check, the Southern Nevada Water Authority includes your first SIMPLY BEAUTIFUL newsletter. It's designed not only to provide tips on keeping your landscape looking great, but also to help you maintain its water efficiency.

Water Smart: Watering tips

- ❑ After your Water Smart Landscape has been established for 30 days, decrease initial watering schedules to comply with mandatory watering restrictions. Become familiar with your clock—when and how often it's watering and how to make basic adjustments.
- ❑ In warm weather, water in early-morning hours to minimize evaporation. In cold weather, water in mid- to late-morning hours to prevent water from freezing on your landscape.



NEW AND MATURE PLANTS OFTEN REQUIRE MULTIPLE EMITTERS. BE PREPARED TO RE-EVALUATE PLANTS' WATER NEEDS ANNUALLY AND ADD EMITTERS FOR LONG-TERM HEALTH.

- ❑ At the 30-day mark, check your irrigation system and repair broken or clogged drip emitters, leaks or damage. Call your contractor if items are under warranty.
- ❑ A Water Smart Landscape can reduce water bills by as much as 75 percent. Monitor your water bills closely throughout the first year of your new landscape: If you are not seeing decreases in the dollar amount of your bill as well as how many gallons of water you're using per month, you are probably overwatering and also may have a leak or malfunction in your irrigation system.

Drip tips

Many customers ask, "I know I need to run my drip system longer than a sprinkler system, but how long is long enough?" That depends on the number and flow of your drip emitters.



BOTH OF THESE ARE LOW-FLOW EMITTERS (1/2 - 4 GPH).

In general, the higher the gallons per hour (gph) flow of your emitter, the **shorter** your run time.

For example, 1/2 - 1 gph emitters may run for 90 minutes; 2 gph emitters for 60 minutes; and 4 gph emitters for 30 minutes.

Landscape contractors often establish aggressive watering schedules for a new landscape—watering longer and/or more often to help plants get established. When your landscape reaches the 30-day mark, however, it's time to reduce watering—both for the long-term health of your plants and to comply with watering restrictions. Overwatering is one of the most-common mistakes seen in a Water Smart Landscape conversion—and one of the easiest to correct.

If you planted in the fall, your plants will have an easier time adapting. If you planted in spring or summer, monitor plants closely for signs of stress.

In one yard, the environment can vary from location to location due to conditions such as amount of shade, exposure to wind and sun, and slope. As your plants mature, you'll learn which areas need a bit of extra attention.

Deep-watering is more important than the frequency, so check the soil for moisture and proper drainage; adjust watering times accordingly. Watch for signs of stress and water based on need. For new plants, generally water if the first 2 inches of soil is dry.

Mandatory watering schedules: What you need to know

Drip irrigation is allowed any day of the week as long as the frequency does not exceed 3 days a week in spring and fall and 1 day a week in winter. Often, plants can thrive with less-frequent waterings. The SNWA recommends a single, long drip cycle:

1 day a week in winter (November-February)

2 days a week in spring and fall (March-April, September-October)

3 days a week in summer (May-August)

Appreciating your new outdoor living space

You're part of a growing movement to create a sustainable community that uses water and all of our resources wisely. But the benefit to YOU starts far closer to home: Lower water bills, less maintenance and a new outdoor living space that's an extension of your lifestyle, in harmony with the desert.



- Don't worry if new plants look small and underdeveloped. Most take 6 months to a year to start filling out. Be patient.
- Remove the transportation (nursery) stake next to the trunk of small, fragile trees after a few months. Larger anchoring stakes held by flexible ties may be needed for 1 to 2 years.
- Little or no maintenance pruning is needed in the first year of your new Water Smart Landscape. Allow trees and shrubs to grow naturally when possible. Plants in their natural form possess a graceful, willowy beauty that is easy to appreciate.
- Every landscape, even a Water Smart one, experiences trial and error. As you replace plants and consider new varieties, keep things like sun and wind exposure in mind and group plants with similar watering needs together.

Classes to help you maintain your Water Smart Landscape are offered at the Springs Preserve. Find details at springspreserve.org.

Visit snwa.com for more tips to ensure the success of your landscape.



SOUTHERN NEVADA WATER AUTHORITY

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MANDATORY WATERING RESTRICTIONS

Mandatory restrictions mean you may water only on the assigned day(s) for your watering group. Check your bill for your watering days, visit snwa.com or call your water provider. Post this schedule by your irrigation clock.

My assigned group: _____

Watering Group	Winter November - February	Spring / Fall March - April / September - October	Summer May - August
A	Monday	Monday, Wednesday, Friday	Any day
B	Tuesday	Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday	Any day
C	Wednesday	Monday, Wednesday, Friday	Any day
D	Thursday	Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday	Any day
E	Friday	Monday, Wednesday, Friday	Any day
F	Saturday	Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday	Any day

Run sprinklers 3 times, 4 minutes per cycle on your assigned day(s).

Sprinkler irrigation for remaining turf must adhere to assigned watering days. After a 30-day period allotted to establish new plants, you must adhere to mandatory watering restrictions. Under restrictions, watering with a handheld hose and supervised testing of your irrigation system are allowed at any time. Find your watering group on snwa.com, call 258-SAVE or check your water bill.

