

Pop Quiz:

Do You Know Where Your Water Comes From?

Most people in Texas don't.

If you are served by the North Texas Municipal Water District and you think your water comes from Lavon Lake, you're right. Congratulations! You're well on your way to raising your Water IQ.

Every day is a chance to save.

If everyone uses just 5 percent less water, we can make our limited supply last longer. The most effective way to save water is to reduce outdoor consumption.

North Texas Municipal Water District is implementing a public education and awareness campaign to help save water. It's called "Water IQ: Know your water." By raising everyone's Water IQ, North Texas will use less water.

How to save water with your sprinkler system

- 1 Operate sprinklers manually—don't rely on timers. If you must use a timer, learn to operate it correctly. Carefully read the manual or consult your irrigation system professional.
- 2 Replace your timer with an "evapotranspiration" (ET) controller to reduce outdoor water use. These cool, high-tech devices monitor information about soil moisture, rain, wind and evaporation to determine watering schedules. Traditional timers require manual adjustments as the weather changes. ET controllers use real-time data from local weather stations, and they can reduce water use by about 30 percent. Ask your irrigation company where to purchase and how to install an ET controller.
- 3 If you don't use an ET controller, install rain and freeze sensors to prevent sprinklers from operating when it is raining. They're inexpensive and can be installed by your irrigation company.
- 4 Check sprinkler systems frequently for directional aim and broken heads to prevent watering driveways, sidewalks and streets. Have a professional inspect your system annually for leaks.
- 5 Water before 10 a.m. and after 6 p.m. Mid-day watering results in fast evaporation and scorches lawns and plants.
- 6 Cut back outdoor watering to 1 inch every seven days. Experts advise watering your lawn deeply and infrequently to promote a strong root system.
- 7 Use drip irrigation, soaker hoses and root feeders instead of sprinklers to water trees, shrubs and beds more efficiently and reduce evaporation and wasteful runoff.
- 8 Use plenty of mulch in your beds—especially during a drought. Experts recommend 4 to 6 inches of mulch to prevent evaporation and to keep the soil moist.

Save 5%

Read your latest utility bill and note how many gallons you consumed. Simply multiply the number of gallons by .05—that's your 5 percent goal. For example, 8,000 gallons X .05 = 400 gallons. That's all you need to save for that month. You can easily save that much by fixing a leak, operating your irrigation system properly or implementing some of these other simple tips.

It may not seem like much, but every time you practice one of these easy tips you're helping to make Lavon Lake last. That's good for business, our economy and North Texas.

The North Texas Municipal Water District is the first in Texas to implement the "Water IQ: Know your water" campaign, the state's official water conservation public education campaign. The North Texas Municipal Water District is a wholesale water provider serving 1.6 million people in the North Texas area.



Raise your Water IQ.