Conserve Water While Bringing Out the Best in Your Outdoor Area

While you love having a great-looking outdoor area, you may think you use too much water. Rather than compromise on the look and feel of your space, consider making a few eco-friendly changes to how you care for your exterior space. Find the balance between conserving water and beautifying your property. [Michigan Resource Stewards](https://miresourcestewards.org/) shares how.

Lay Down Mulch

Do not overlook the [importance of mulch](https://www.barenbrug.biz/mulching) when making environmentally friendly changes to your home's or business's exterior. Mulch controls weeds and keeps root systems cool. After your yard or landscape is watered, mulch also reduces evaporation.

Plant the Right Plants

According to landscaping professionals, [planting native plants](https://www.audubon.org/content/why-native-plants-matter) cuts down on overall maintenance and supplemental watering, and they help [protect local biodiversity](https://croplife.org/news/top-10-ways-you-can-protect-biodiversity/). Native plants have already acclimated to local rainwater conditions and climate, and they're more likely to resist local diseases and pests. Native plants can save you not only time but money, too.

Also, look into adding [drought-tolerant plants](https://www.swansonsnursery.com/blog/the-truth-about-drought-tolerant-plants). Even if you get limited rainfall in your area, you need not worry about watering drought-tolerant plants as much.

Harvest Rainwater

Not only does harvesting rainwater cut down on the cost of watering your outside area, but it also gives you access to another water supply. You get control of this water source, water usage, and water treatment. If your area faces an emergency that affects your community water supply, harvested rainwater could keep your landscape looking great.

Tap Government Resources

If money holds you back from adopting more eco-friendly watering practices for a new or current home, consider applying for the FHA's Energy Efficient Mortgage program. The [special mortgage](https://www.redfin.com/guides/down-payment-assistance-programs) helps with the cost of various environmentally friendly home modifications. You may use these savings for efficient landscaping, an irrigation system, or an efficient sprinkler system.

Take Care of Spigot and Hose Leaks

Don't forget about the basics as you make your landscape or lawn more eco-friendly. Imagine saving by harvesting rainwater and mulching only to lose money through a preventable hose or spigot leak. Inspect all the equipment you use to water your lawn to ensure it's in good condition. Regular maintenance helps you save money and get full use of your equipment.

Let Your Grass Grow Longer

Rather than cut your grass short, consider letting it grow. Longer grass has a better food supply because photosynthesis happens on the blades of grass. The longer the blade, the better your chances of experiencing better [shoot and root](https://www.lawn-care-academy.com/grass-root-growth.html) growth. Another benefit of longer grass is you give the ground a source of natural shade, which means water doesn't evaporate as quickly as it would with shorter grass. Longer grass also robs weeds of the sunlight they need to lay siege to your yard and [cause avoidable issues](https://www.bobvila.com/slideshow/10-ways-your-backyard-can-hurt-you-50383).

Consider Synthetic Grass

Maybe you don't enjoy mowing your grass or paying someone to tackle the task. Either way, [synthetic grass](https://fieldofgreen.com/blog/synthetic-turf-3-tips-for-buying-artificial-grass/) gives you one less thing to worry about. You don't need to buy herbicide, fertilizer, or pesticide, any of which may pollute your water. Think about how much money you spend on real grass and how much you could save by switching to synthetic. Research whether your area offers special rebates for installing synthetic grass.

Work smarter rather than harder to bring out the best in your outdoor area. The right tips help you as much as they do Mother Nature.