



WaterSaver Newsletter

August 2012

[Is Your Pool Leaking?](#)

In our dry desert climate, the typical swimming pool can evaporate its equivalent water volume in one year - up to 25,000 gallons of water. Along with evaporation, you will also have water lost to 'splash out' and possibly in the backwash process.

It is also estimated up to 30 percent of all pools have a leak, wasting lots of water unnecessarily. Most leaks are a result of faulty auto refillers, plumbing problems or improper seals around fittings.

To determine if your [pool is leaking](#) or if it's just normal loss due to evaporation, use this neat trick. First, turn off your automatic pool refiller if you have one. Place a bucket of water on the top step of the pool and fill it with water to the pool's water level (or just mark the level of water in the bucket and the water level of the pool with a wax marker and measure the loss). After a day, if the water level in the pool is lower than the bucket, there is probably a leak in the pool structure or plumbing system.

Sometimes, it is necessary to drain your pool. If so, pool water must be drained into your yard or the sewer clean-out. If your home or property does not have a sewer clean-out, you must drain it slowly enough so it remains in your yard. Pools MAY NOT be drained into the street, alley, or neighboring properties. Pool water is generally safe to use on your landscape. Follow this link for more information on [using pool water on your landscape](#).

If you have questions on pool leaks, call the Water Conservation office at 480-782-3580 or email us at conserve@chandleraz.gov.

In This Issue

[Is Your Pool Leaking?](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Monthly Watering Advice](#)

[Ask a Garden Goddess](#)

[Plant of the Month](#)

[Water Wise Tips](#)

Upcoming Events

August 3 - 5

[Sedona Hummingbird Festival](#)

August 6 - 29

[Smartscape landscape training](#)

August 28

[Basic Yard Makeovers](#)

August 25

[Southern Arizona Salsa Culinary Challenge](#)

See complete schedule at www.chandleraz.gov/water



Monthly Watering Advice

Ask A Garden Goddess



August

It's the dog days of summer, and even though it feels uncomfortable to us, the higher humidity makes it easier for plants. A few monsoons with lightning have stormed through adding to the potential for power outages. Make sure you've replaced your battery in your irrigation timer within the past year (if it has that option). Battery backup will maintain your programs and clock during an outage. These recommendations are for plants that are established in the landscape (in the ground about 2 years).

Lawn watering:

Summer grass (Bermuda) - once every 3-4 days
Overseeded cool season grass (rye) - grass dies out

If trees and shrubs are on the same valve:

Desert Adapted - once every 15 days
High Water Use - once every 8 days

Tree watering:

Desert Adapted - once every 17 days
High Water Use - once every 9 days

Shrub watering:

Desert Adapted - once every 13 days
High Water Use - once every 6 days

Groundcover and vine watering:

Desert Adapted - once every 12 days
High Water Use - once every 5 days

Cacti and succulent watering - once every 22 days

Annuals watering - once every 2-3 days

Reduce your landscape watering 30 to 50 percent by adjusting your irrigation each season. "[Landscape Watering by the Numbers: A Guide for the Arizona Desert](#)" will help you determine how much water to apply and how long to run your system. Request a free copy at www.chandleraz.gov/water or visit the interactive Web site at <http://www.wateruseitwisely.com>

Note: These recommendations are a general guideline only and may need to be modified for your specific site conditions.

My landscaper says my yard needs to be dethatched. What is this?

According to the experts at the University of Arizona Karsten Turf Research Center in Tucson, "thatch is the tightly intermingled layer of dead and decaying stems, roots, stolons, and rhizomes between the green blades of grass and the soil surface."

Thatch buildup results in a weakened, poorly rooted turf that is prone to stress injury and requires frequent irrigation and intense management. Hybrid types of Bermuda (Midiron, BobSod, EZ Turf, Tifway, Tifgreen, etc.) tend to build up a layer of thatch quickly, while common Bermuda, ryegrass and tall fescue seldom need dethatching.

Follow the link for more information on [dethatching](#).

Email your question to GardenGoddess@chandleraz.gov

Water Conservation E-News

This monthly newsletter will help you create stunning landscapes that use less water. Each issue is packed with personalized watering advice, notices about upcoming events, timely tips to maintain a healthy landscape, plus ways to reduce your water bill. Read past issues here - [WaterSaver newsletter](#).

[Sign-Up Now](#)

Sincerely,
Water Conservation Staff

[Chandler City Council](#)

Jay Tibshraeny, Mayor
Jeff Weninger, Vice Mayor

[Council Members](#)

Trinity Donovan
Kevin Hartke
Rick Heumann
Matt Orlando
Jack Sellers



The WaterSaver newsletter is published by Chandler's Water Conservation office and is just one more way we're providing Chandler utility customers with inspiring ideas at a reduced cost.

You have received this newsletter because you requested a subscription, asked to receive information from us, or have been identified by Water Conservation as someone who could benefit from the information.



Questions or comments? We want to hear from you! Contact us at conserve@chandleraz.gov