



**A WaterWise Nation**  
Act Today. Sustain Tomorrow.

# Saving Water in the Garden and Outdoors

## How to keep your garden green without draining precious resources

For many families living in urban and peri-urban homes, more than half of household water use happens outside mainly in gardens, on lawns, or keeping pools topped up. But saving water doesn't mean giving up your summer garden or saying goodbye to a clean car.

With smart habits and a few affordable changes, you can enjoy your outdoor space while using significantly less water.

### Water wisely, not wastefully

One of the biggest mistakes homeowners make is using clean drinking water to water gardens. If you're connecting your hosepipe or sprinkler system to a tap, that's exactly what's happening. Here's a better idea: harvest rainwater.

### Install a rainwater tank

A JoJo tank or similar water storage system collects runoff from your roof every time it rains. A 5,000-litre tank can fill up surprisingly fast during a storm and you can use that water for:

- Lawns and flower beds
- Vegetable gardens
- Topping up the pool
- Washing cars (if absolutely necessary)

### Go Grey: Reuse where you can

Grey water is water that's already been used but is still safe for non-drinking purposes.

This includes water from:

- Showers
- Bathroom basins
- Washing machines (using eco-friendly detergents)



**Water  
tips**



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You can collect this water with buckets or install a simple redirection system from your plumbing to your garden. Some families invest in full grey water systems with filters and pumps, which pay for themselves over time in water bill savings.

Avoid using kitchen sink or dishwasher grey water they often contain fats and food particles that can harm plants and soil.

### Smarter gardening tips

You don't need to sacrifice a beautiful garden to be water-wise.

Try these tips:

- Plant indigenous or drought-tolerant plants like succulents or aloes
- Water early in the morning or late in the evening to reduce evaporation
- Use mulch (bark, straw, leaves) to keep soil moist
- Compost your beds it helps soil retain water
- Cut down on lawn space and let grass go dormant in dry seasons
- Remove invasive species like eucalyptus, pine, or wattle, which consume excessive water
- Don't overfertilize it can make plants need more water

**Water  
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### Cover that pool

An uncovered pool can lose thousands of litres of water per year through evaporation.

A good pool cover helps retain water and even warms it using solar energy. Use captured rainwater to top up the pool instead of tap water.

Every bucket of reused water and every litre of rainwater saved is a step toward a more water-resilient home. With the right habits, tools like JoJo tanks, and thoughtful planting choices, your garden can thrive even in dry conditions, and you'll feel good knowing you're helping conserve one of our most vital natural resources.

