

THE Austin Water Block Leader Program



Welcome Block Leaders!

Welcome to Austin Water's Block Leader program. You are a vital link between Austin Water's conservation efforts and your community. By sharing information on water and water conservation programs and rebates, you help Austin conserve a valued resource: clean, reliable water.

Each quarter, you will receive a newsletter and some door hangers to share with those in your neighborhood. The newsletter will outline some of our programs as well as offer tips on ways to conserve water.

The Block Leader Program is the latest component of our ongoing 3C Challenge. The 3C Challenge is a call to action for everyone in Austin to commit to reducing his or her water use by just 10%. If everyone in our area reduced their water use by 10%, we'd save over 13 million gallons of water per day!

The 3Cs are an easy and fun way to get started adopting a water-wise lifestyle. What are the 3Cs?

For more information, contact
Austin Water at 974-2199,
watercon@ci.austin.tx.us or visit our
website: WaterWiseAustin.org

January 2012
PREMIER ISSUE

A quarterly publication of
Austin Water

Commit

Challenge yourself to reduce your water use by 10%. We provide the tools to make water conservation easy and affordable.

Calculate

Use our online water calculator and find the water wasters in your home. The graphs on your utility statement can also help you keep track.

Conserve

Changing some simple daily habits, repairing or replacing appliances, and following your watering schedule can help you save water and money.

Be sure to check out the 3C water calculator on our website, WaterWiseAustin.org.

In this issue...

Welcome
Watering Schedule
WashWise Rebate
Showerheads &
Aerators
Landscaping
Rainwater Harvesting



*As a Block Leader,
you are a vital link
between Austin Water's
conservation efforts and
your community.*



One Day Watering ONLY

RESIDENTIAL ODD ADDRESS	RESIDENTIAL EVEN ADDRESS	COMMERCIAL, MULTIFAMILY ODD ADDRESS	COMMERCIAL, MULTIFAMILY EVEN ADDRESS
AUTOMATIC IRRIGATION SYSTEMS: BEFORE 10 A.M. HOSE-END SPRINKLERS, SOAKERS: BEFORE 10 A.M. or AFTER 7 P.M.			
Saturday	Sunday	Tuesday	Friday



Watering schedule

The Stage 2 watering schedule was adopted in September 2011. Sticking to this schedule conserves our treated drinking water and helps keep our lakes full. Water only on your assigned day and always before 10:00 a.m. or after 7:00 p.m. (automatic systems before 10 a.m. only) At these times, less water is likely to be wasted due to evaporation. Watering with a hand-held hose or watering can is permitted any time on any day. Violations of the watering schedule may be reported to 3-1-1.



Is your irrigation system ready for winter?

Winter is upon us and many Austin Water customers are looking to shut down their irrigation systems and take a break from high water bills. Simply turning off the irrigation system at the controller will do the trick, but some folks may want to protect the irrigation pipes from freezing by “winterizing” their system.

The majority of irrigation systems will not be affected by a normal Central Texas winter, but in the case of shallow pipes or above ground backflow prevention devices, extra care should be taken. The goal of winterizing an irrigation system is to release pressure in the irrigation mainline. First, find a water shutoff point for your irrigation system. This may be a separate handle or you can use one of the two handles on the backflow prevention device. Turn off the water to

the irrigation system and either run a test program or a manual cycle on your controller. You will probably hear a quick release of water in the landscape, but there should be no water flowing through the meter to refill the irrigation lines. There will almost always be water left in the pipes, but the mainline of the irrigation system is now depressurized. Take precautions when working with the backflow prevention device. These handles are rarely used and should be turned slowly. Turning off the handle further upstream before turning on the irrigation system will eliminate pressure in the actual device itself.

When turning the water back on to fill your irrigation lines, open the valve slightly to let the lines fill, before fully opening the valve. Lastly, protect any above ground backflow prevention devices with proper insulation.



To request an evaluation, visit www.cityofaustin.org/water/conservation/res_irrigate.htm or call 974-2199.

WashWise Rebate Program

Purchase and install a qualifying washing machine to be eligible for a rebate. Submit your application with a copy of your receipt within 30 days of purchase or installation. To be eligible for the \$50 water rebate, you must receive water from Austin Water or an eligible MUD.

Eligibility for the energy rebate depends on the type of water heater you have. If you have an electric water heater, you must have Austin Energy service (\$50 Austin Energy rebate) If you have a gas water heater, you must have Texas Gas Service and be within the Austin City Limits (\$25 rebate). Propane heaters are not rebate-eligible.



Showerheads and faucet aerators

One of the top users of water around the home is the shower, but replacing old shower heads with low-flow models can cut your water consumption by 50% to 70%.

Austin Water customers can pick up to three free shower heads and faucet aerators for your home. Come by the Conservation Office on the first floor of Waller Creek Center, located at 625 E. 10th Street.



Around the Home

We're here to help!

If you have questions about the Block Leader Program, email AWUWaterBlockLeader@austintexas.gov or call 972-0148. For questions about water conservation programs and rebates, email watercon@ci.austin.tx.us, call 974-2199, or visit our website: WaterWiseAustin.org

WaterWise lawn care tips

Even in the hottest summer months, your lawn usually needs no more than 1" of water weekly. In fall, landscapes require less water. Here are some tips to help you save water on your landscape.

- Water during the early morning or in the evening when temperatures are lower.
- Water only on your assigned watering day.
- Don't water on windy days.
- Don't allow automatic sprinklers to run during or immediately after rainfall.

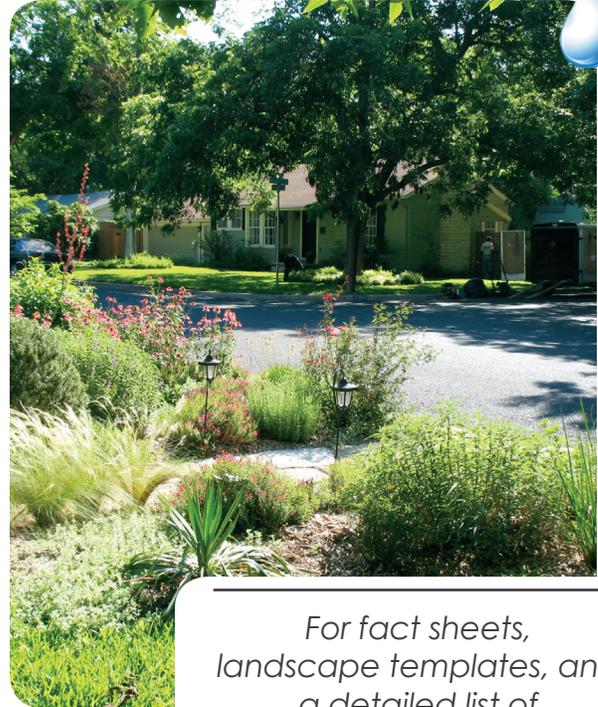
Go native

If your yard takes a beating during the Texas summer, consider a drought-tolerant landscape. Austin Water periodically offers landscape conversion incentives to encourage Austin Water residential customers to reduce the amount of thirsty turf grass and non-native plants. Check our website WaterWiseAustin.org, click on the "residents" tab on the left hand side, then scroll down to Rebates and Programs for up-to-date rebate information.

Compost

Composting is a great way to recycle your kitchen waste and yard trimmings, reduce your trash output and generate a free and rich soil conditioner.

The City of Austin's home composting rebate program offers free composting classes and (for eligible customers) a rebate of 75% (up to \$75) off the cost of a home composting system. Learn more at the Austin Resource Recovery website: AustinRecycles.com.



For fact sheets, landscape templates, and a detailed list of native and adapted plants for Central Texas, visit: www.GrowGreen.org

Bring on the rain

Austin Water's rainwater harvesting rebates can help you supplement your irrigation system with rain barrels and rainwater harvesting systems. Rebates are based on the size of your rainwater tank or barrel.



Rebates are available for non-pressurized components (such as rain barrels) at \$0.50 per gallon.

Rebates for pressurized systems (usually larger cisterns with a pump) are \$1.00 per gallon. Customers may apply once a year and rebates are limited to half of the project cost with a lifetime maximum of \$5,000. Rebates are subject to funding availability and requirements.



In the Yard

