

**Our Water. Our Future.**



**Ours to Protect**

## Save water

When we over water our lawns, the excess water carries pollution into storm drains and ditches that lead directly to our rivers and lakes.

In fact, did you know that each of us uses 77 gallons of water a day?

What can you do? Follow the tips on the back of this card for simple ways you can help save water.

[www.semco.org](http://www.semco.org)

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Southeast Michigan Council of Governments

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**Water wisely.** Generally, your lawn needs about an inch of water a week. Over watering lawns results in shallow-rooted plants that are less tolerant of heat and drought, and more prone to disease. Avoid over watering by using a rain gauge and watering only when necessary, instead of on a fixed schedule.

**Improve your aim.** Adjust your sprinklers to water only your lawn and plants — not your driveway, sidewalk, or street.

**Use mulch.** Place a thick layer of mulch (e.g., four inches) around trees and plants. This helps retain water, reduce weeds, and minimize the need for pesticides.

**Sweep it.** Clean sidewalks and driveways with a broom, instead of a hose. You'll save water and keep unwanted pollutants out of the storm drain.

**Put rainwater to work.** Use rainwater to water your plants. Direct downspouts toward your plants and green areas or collect water with rain barrels for use later.

**Mow high.** Make your lawn cheaper and easier to maintain by mowing high (three inches is recommended). Longer grass has deeper roots and requires less water.