



Homeowner Water Guide

Spring Checklist

Protecting Calgary's precious water resources is a shared responsibility among The City of Calgary, businesses and Calgarians. There are many actions you can take to ensure that your home is safe and as water efficient as possible. This simple spring checklist is a great place to start. Check out the Homeowner Water Guide series for more details on how to get the job done.

Spring Checklist

- Check the Watering 101 Guide to find out when to start watering plants, shrubs and trees.
- Consult the YardSmart plant list before you plan what you plant this season.
- Schedule lawn aerating and dethatching.
- Once pollinators are done hibernating (when average night-time temperature is 10 degrees Celsius), clean debris from gardens and lawns.
- Pull any weeds that may have grown, remove dead annuals and prune perennials.
- Fertilize gardens and lawns with compost. Check City of Calgary compost pick-up dates and add them to your calendar.
- Add mulch to your gardens. Check City of Calgary mulch pick-up dates and locations, and add them to your calendar.
- Set up or install your rain barrel, or consider purchasing one from Green Calgary.
- Get your lawn mower serviced, sharpen the blades and set the cutting height to three inches to keep your grass healthy.
- Check and repair watering cans and hoses.
- Check for water leaks from your outdoor tap and irrigation system.
- Clean and repair downspouts, and direct stormwater away from your house, ideally towards your garden.
- Clean any debris from storm drains in the street near your home.
- Check all outdoor water fixtures like fountains and ponds for leaks.
- If you have an automatic irrigation system, schedule to have your backflow prevention device tested by certified cross connection tester.

Indoor:

- Check your sump pump for leaks or damage.
- Use your water meter to check for leaks inside your home every six months as part of regular home maintenance.
- Check your toilets, taps, humidifier, hot water heater, water softener and other water using devices for leaks.

Helpful Tip: If you have travel plans, check your home insurance policy before deciding to turn your water service off, and confirm how often someone needs to check on your home while you're away.



Homeowner Water Guide

Fall Checklist

Protecting Calgary's precious water resources is a shared responsibility among The City of Calgary, businesses and Calgarians. There are many actions you can take to ensure that your home is safe and as water efficient as possible. This simple fall checklist is a great place to start. Check out the Homeowner Water Guide series for more details on how to get the job done.

Fall Checklist

- Check the Watering 101 Guide to find out when to stop watering plants, shrubs and trees.
- Consult the YardSmart plant list to make any seasonal additions to your garden like bulbs.
- Leave debris in plant beds over winter to provide habitat for pollinators.
- Place mulch around perennial plants and trees to protect them from frost.
- Prune your trees and shrubs.
- Let your grass grow into dormancy – stop watering and stop cutting.
- Turn off the outdoor water supply to avoid winter leaks.
- Properly winterize and turn off your irrigation system to avoid leaks.
- Clean debris out of your gutters.
- Clean and repair downspouts, and direct stormwater away from your house, ideally towards your garden.
- Clean and properly winterize your rain barrel.

Indoor:

- Still have an old, high-flow toilet? Consider replacing it with a low-flow WaterSense approved model to save money and water.
- Check your sump pump for leaks or damage.
- Clean out the backflow valve located in your basement.
- Use your water meter to check for leaks inside your home every six months as part of regular home maintenance.
- Check your toilets, taps, humidifier, hot water heater, water softener and other water using devices for leaks.
- Service your hot water heater, water softener and humidifier.

Helpful Tip: Going on an extended holiday? Check your home insurance policy before deciding to turn your water service off, and confirm how often someone needs to check on your home while you're away.