



# 2019 Water Wise Guide

Centennial Water & Sanitation District partnered with Highlands Ranch High School and the Denver Botanic Gardens to help transform landscape near the front entrance of the high school into several Xeriscape demonstration gardens. The gardens selected are bee friendly and will be expanded in future years.



## Water bill payment options

Centennial Water offers free paperless water billing and online bill pay options. The expanded service includes the ability to safely and securely set up recurring credit card payments as well as electronic receipts to your email account.

1. Visit [centennialwater.org](http://centennialwater.org) and click the **Online Bill Pay** icon. Please have your bill in front of you as you will need specific information from it to process your payment.
2. Enter your account number in the appropriate field and use your house number as your password.
3. Click on **Billing Options** and enter and confirm your email address to receive your bill electronically.
4. Click the **Online Bill Pay** tab to pay by credit/debit card or with an electronic check. You can choose to establish a recurring credit card payment by clicking the appropriate box.
5. Click **Continue**. Once processed you will receive a confirmation for your records.



62 Plaza Drive  
Highlands Ranch, CO 80129

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE

**PAID**  
Highlands Ranch, CO  
Permit Number 433  
CRRT WSS

Residential Customer

# Help stop water waste

Centennial Water & Sanitation District is the water provider for Highlands Ranch and the Highlands Ranch Metro District. Centennial Water has implemented the following rules to reduce water waste in the community. These rules help stop inefficient water use, which in turn, help sustain our water resources for future generations.

- **Outdoor irrigation is not allowed from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m., May 1 through Sept. 30.**
- Hand watering trees and shrubs is allowed anytime if a hose is held and equipped with a shut off device.
- Wasteful water practices are prohibited. This includes allowing excess water to flow into street gutters or neglecting to repair leaks.



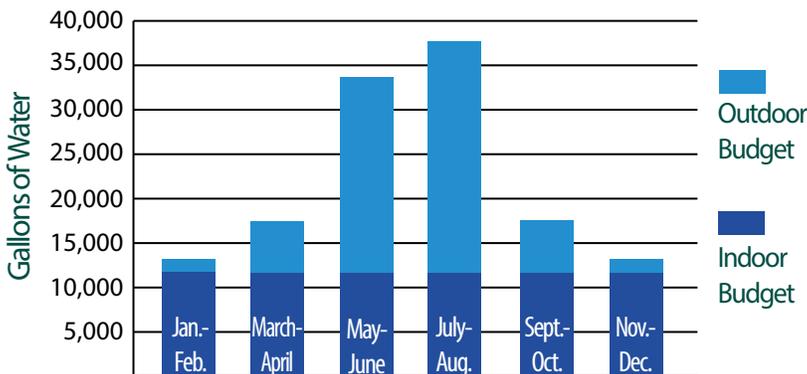
To report an incident of water waste, call 303-791-0430. To report an irrigation leak in parks or landscape along roads, call 303-634-8042.

## Water budgets

Customers are billed for water consumption using a conservation-based rate structure called water budgets. Each customer is assigned an allocation of water that provides for both indoor and outdoor use. Water budgets are set for each Highlands Ranch customer for each bi-monthly billing period. Budgets are based on lot size and adjusted for seasonal outdoor irrigation demand beginning the third week of April through the second week of October.

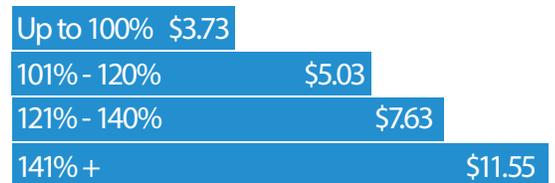
Water budgets are linked to an increasing tiered rate structure. When water use is greater than the budgeted amount, customers will pay more. Water budgets do not change for weather conditions. Your water budget can be found on your bill.

### Typical Single Family Water Budget



### Summertime Residential Water Rates

Per 1,000 gallons



The residential water rate per 1,000 gallons is \$3.73. The graph above depicts the rates customers will pay when they exceed their allocated water budget during each billing period.

## RULES & REGULATIONS

## What Xeriscape is NOT

**Xeriscape is NOT anti-lawn** - Even though Xeriscape landscaping can be colorful, even lush, limited areas of more highly-watered landscape like grass lawns are consistent with wise water use. Sometimes a lawn is the best option. For example, turf grass is the best option for an athletic field since it stands up to heavy use. Xeriscape is *less lawn landscaping* rather than *lawn less landscaping*.

**Xeriscape is NOT just rocks and gravel** - And it's not a zeroscape; plants are a vital part of a beautiful Xeriscape. Although rock gardens can be truly marvelous, there are many wonderful choices other than rock for Xeriscape designs. By definition, Xeriscape means some water applied in well-controlled amounts and locations in the landscape.

**Xeriscape is NOT native plants only** - Although there are vast arrays of wonderful plants indigenous to all regions, non-invasive introduced plants well-adapted to the local climate are wonderful additions to landscaping that frugally uses water. For example, many iris, tulips, and even roses are examples of introduced plants that are well adapted to nonirrigated landscaping in the Rocky Mountain region.

**Xeriscape is NOT a boring monoculture of spiny plants** - On the contrary, well planned Xeriscapes are splendid examples of the beauty and diversity that make neighbors envious.

## Garden In A Box

Garden In A Box offers a simple approach to learn about and plant a water-wise garden. Regardless of expertise, you can save water and beautify your landscape by purchasing a professionally designed, perennial garden

that uses Xeric (low water) plants and includes a comprehensive plant and care guide. When Xeric gardens replace existing turf, water savings are significant.

For more information, or to order a Garden In A Box, visit [ConservationCenter.org/Gardens](http://ConservationCenter.org/Gardens) or call 303-999-3820, ext. 222.

### Did you know?

Planting native plants in your landscape not only saves money, but also saves water.

More than 50 percent of residential water use is spent on outdoor irrigation.

## Xeriscape Resources

- **Plant Talk**  
planttalk.org
- **Resource Central**  
resourcecentral.org
- **Colorado Water Wise**  
coloradowaterwise.org
- **CSU Extension**  
extension.coloradostate.edu
- **Native Plant Master**  
conativeplantmaster.colostate.edu/
- **Colorado Plant Database**  
coloradoplants.jeffco.us



Sign up for Centennial Water's free, monthly eNewsletter at [centennialwater.org](http://centennialwater.org).

# XERIC LANDSCAPE

# Don't set it and forget it

Water requirements change throughout the season and so should irrigation run times. Adjusting your controller throughout the year should become routine. The table to the right shows approximate daily run times for different types of sprinkler heads. For best results, water no more than three times per week. Water only as needed in April and October, and remember to turn off irrigation systems for the year the second week of October.

Remember to read your water meter regularly to monitor water use. Doing so will identify possible leaks or if you are using too much water.

Daily water times (minutes) - three times a week

Month	Fixed sprays	Rotors	HE Rotary Nozzles	Manual
May	12	23	32	18
June	14	29	40	22
July	16	31	43	24
August	12	24	33	18
September	10	21	28	15
October	7	15	20	11

**Cycle and soak** is a more efficient way to water, preventing water waste, and is better for the health of your lawn. Water is applied in multiple, shorter cycles allowing water to soak into the soil before running off. This promotes deeper roots and healthier plants.

Cycle and soak not only eliminates runoff, but also provides more water to roots. The first cycle breaks the surface tension of the soil and allows water to penetrate. The second cycle is absorbed even further into the soil, reaching the roots. The third cycle allows additional absorption, filling the root zone and promoting a healthier landscape.



## Sample run time for May, based on the chart above:

12 minutes fixed spray ÷ 3 cycles = 4 minute cycles run at a minimum of 30 minutes apart

## Water efficiency programs

Centennial Water offers Highlands Ranch residents a number of cost-effective water conservation programs.

### Slow the Flow - Free Irrigation Inspections

A limited number of free irrigation inspections are available to residential customers. The inspection will reveal the efficiency of irrigation systems and you will be provided suggestions to improve it.

The Slow the Flow program is funded by Centennial Water through Resource Central. Call Resource Central at **303-999-3824**, or visit [resourcecentral.org](http://resourcecentral.org) to schedule an appointment.

### Rain Sensor Rebates

Rain sensors can be added to any irrigation system in order to interrupt the normal watering schedule when it rains. Centennial Water customers who purchase and install a rain sensor may be eligible for a rebate of up to \$25. Smart controllers are not covered under this rebate. Visit [centennialwater.org](http://centennialwater.org) for rebate applications.

### Turf Replacement

Centennial Water is running a pilot program which may compensate you for turf conversion. A rebate is available for the removal of any high water use plant material and replacement with Xeric or drought tolerant vegetation. The program encourages residential customers to convert water-thirsty plant materials, such as Kentucky Bluegrass, into a water wise landscape. Visit [centennialwater.org/turf](http://centennialwater.org/turf) for more information.



Invite a Water Ambassador to speak to your school group or organization on a variety of water conservation topics.

Email [waterambassadors@southmetrowater.org](mailto:waterambassadors@southmetrowater.org) to learn more.

# WATER EFFICIENCY