



The ETHICS of WATER CONSERVATION

It's Everyone's Responsibility

Written by Clark Gullette



...we all want to protect our investment no matter how big or small.

In the year 2010, the National Association of Realtors listed selling points found most important to potential buyers, and second on the list was landscaping. We all love a beautiful lawn, lush green grass, landscaped shrubbery and native trees, with a design to accentuate and beautify the property. After all, landscaping can make a huge difference in curb appeal.

Landscape is a vital part of finishing out a property, and the design, installation of hardscapes, plantings and irrigation can hit your pocket book pretty heavy. Usually the last line item in the budget, most young homeowners must settle for less landscape curb appeal in favor of crown molding. Yet we all want to protect our investment no matter how big or small.



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In this region, the majority of water used by homeowners is through one's irrigation system. We love to water our lawns. Municipalities are quick to force stage water restrictions in favor of other methods which have been proven as solid ways of deterring wasteful habits. As homeowners, we sometimes disagree with the notion that watering our lawns as wasteful. Because let's face it, we're protecting our investment, right?

Each of us has a responsibility to use water in an ethical manner in which the least amount of waste is incurred. We do this by water conservation habits and methods. If we can agree that most water used by homeowners is through our irrigation systems, then we have an ethical right to ensure our system is performing as intended.



How many times have you been running the kids to soccer practice or on your way to work, surprised to see a solid stream of water shooting abruptly out of a broken or defective sprinkler head? Sure it's not your property, yet we pass by without even thinking of notifying the homeowner or city officials. Correcting these types of behaviors is what city officials are trying to instill in each of us, an ethical attitude about water conservation.



In previous articles we have covered ways to limit use, such as turning off water as you brush your teeth, taking a shower instead of a bath and properly irrigating your plant life. These three very simple solutions to waste can be the answer to possible water shortages. All we have to do is be aware, be attentive and be ethically minded about this very important issue. As we go throughout the rest of summer, keep in mind our water is a very precious



resource. We must be ever vigilant as to when and "how much" we use. Take the time to reevaluate your water conservation habits, learn to cut waste, audit your irrigation system and don't be afraid to point out the wasteful habits in others. The best way to achieve this is by your example, because each of us can make a difference.



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