

Outdoor Water Use

A typical hose runs at a flow rate of 5 to 8 gallons per minute (gpm), but can run as high as 10 gpm. If your hose runs at 7 gpm, then a five-minute driveway hose-down uses 35 gallons of water and a 15-minute car wash uses 105 gallons of water.

Eliminating outdoor cleaning of pavements and cars is an excellent way to save water. The best way to clean outdoors is to get out the broom and sweep, no water is used and gets the driveway and sidewalk just as clean. The amount of water you save is, of course, determined by the amount of water you normally use for these purposes.

If your car desperately needs a bath, take it to a car wash that recycles water. You could also use some old rags and a bucket of water to do the job with much less water waste.