



## Maximize Water With Mulch

After your soil is amended, the next step in water conservation is to add mulch in your garden beds and around your plant material. This added layer of insulation prevents water from evaporating quickly, keeping plants cooler and better protected from direct sunlight at the base. There are many types of mulch that can be used, including bark chips, organic mixes and inorganic mixes. We recommend putting down a 2-inch layer to maintain consistent soil moisture.

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## Save Water With Soil

The first step in creating a drought tolerant landscape is to look at your soil. Clay soils have harder time absorbing moisture when too compacted. In contrast, sandy soils allow water to drain too quickly through the porous material. The ideal soil should contain a balance of these two along with other organic material. This sponge-like mix will absorb water and release it as plants need it.

## Drip Irrigation

There are multiple benefits to having drip irrigation installed and our customers generally see a reduction in their water bill. By applying water only where and when it is needed, with less runoff, deep percolation, and evaporation from leaves and soil, the uniform application of water from drip irrigation systems can achieve significant water savings. Watering only the roots of the plants also helps to cut down on weed growth in the area. Low volume irrigation systems can be placed in difficult to water sites that are steep, oddly shaped, or in windy areas. Other than saving money, the most important aspect of drip irrigation is the ability to maintain constant soil moisture in the targeted area, making the root zone more conducive to plant growth.