

Water Conservation Tips

The Toilet



- Check for toilet leaks by adding food coloring to the tank. If the toilet is leaking, color will appear in the bowl within an hour. Check the toilet for worn out corroded, or bent parts.
- Install a toilet dam or displacement device such as a bag or bottle to cut down on the amount of water needed for each flushing. Be sure installations does not interfere with operating parts.
- Consider purchasing a low-flow toilet that can reduce indoor water use by 20%.

The Shower/Bath



- Replace your showerhead with an ultra low-flow version, saving up to 2.5 gallons of water per minute.
- Don't let the water run while shaving, washing your face, or brushing your teeth.

Washing Dishes



- Fully load automatic dishwashers; they use the same amount of water no matter how much is in them.
- Buy dishwashers with water and energy saving options.

Outdoors



- Don't over-water your lawn. A hearty rain eliminates the need for watering for as long as two weeks.
- Water lawns during the early morning hours when temperatures and wind speeds are the lowest. This reduces the amount lost from evaporation.
- Don't water your street, driveway, or sidewalk. Position your sprinklers so that your water lands on the shrubs ... not the paved areas.
- Don't hose down your driveway or sidewalk. Use a broom to clean leaves and other debris from them. Using a hose to clean a driveway can waste hundreds of gallons of water.
- Raise the lawn mower blade to at least three inches. A lawn cut higher encourages grass roots to grow deeper, shades the root system, and holds soil moisture better than a closely-clipped lawn.
- Avoid over-fertilizing your lawn. The application of fertilizers increases the need for water. Don't fertilize monthly instead apply fertilizers which contain slow-release, water-insoluble forms of nitrogen.
- Mulch to retain moisture in the soil. Mulching also helps to control weeds that compete with plants for water.

Did You Know?



- About 6,800 gallons of water is required to grow a day's food for a family of four.
- Eighty percent of fresh water we use in the US is for irrigating crops.
- The human brain is composed of 95% water, blood is 82% water, and the lungs are nearly 90% water.
- Americans consume almost three billion gallons of bottled water a year.
- 4,000 glasses of tap water can be purchased for the same price of a six-pack of soda.