

Water Conservation Tips

- △ Don't over-water your lawn. One inch of water per week in the summer will keep most common grasses healthy. To determine how long you should run your sprinklers, place straight-edged cans at different distances away from the sprinkler and time how long it takes to fill an average of one inch of water in each can.
- △ Don't abuse the benefits of an automatic sprinkler system by wasting large amounts of water. Check sprinkler heads regularly to make sure they are working properly. Install rain shut-off devices and adjust sprinklers to eliminate coverage on pavement.
- △ Prevent evaporation of water. Water lawns early in the morning or in late evening during the hotter summer months. Never water on windy days. Cover pools and spas. This can save the equivalent of your pool volume each year.
- △ Plant water-wise, well adapted and/or native shrubs, trees and grass. Choose plants that are drought-tolerant, heat-tolerant, and are tolerant of the minimum winter temperatures in your area. In odd-shaped areas, use drought-tolerant ground cover instead of grass.
- △ Harvest the rain. Buy a rain barrel or a cistern and collect the water from your gutters to water your plants.
- △ Use your water efficiently. Don't waste water by cleaning the streets or sidewalks with it, use a broom.
- △ Don't scalp lawns when mowing during hot weather. Taller grass holds moisture better. Keep grass 3 inches tall during the summer and don't cut more than 1/3 of its length at one time. Leave lawn clippings on the lawn instead of bagging.
- △ Use lots of mulch around your shrubs and trees. It will retain moisture, reduce run-off, moderate soil temperatures and help with weed control.
- △ Use a commercial car wash that recycles water.
- △ Replace your showerhead with a water efficient model. This saves as much as 6 gallons of water per minute.
- △ Recycle your old toilet and replace it with a water efficient toilet. This saves as much as 5 gallons per flush. If you can't make yourself part with that old toilet, at least install a toilet displacement device. (Use a plastic bag or bottle filled with water to reduce the volume of water in the tank but still provide enough for flushing. Do not use bricks.)
- △ Pay attention to those dripping sounds and fix the leak(s). Hard water ruins rubber parts over time. Periodically take the top off of your toilet tank and watch it flush. Do you notice any leaks? Yes? Replace that flapper or rubber washer. Don't forget about those sneaky silent leaks. Add a few drops of food coloring or a dye table to the water in the take, but do not flush the toilet. If the coloring appears in the bowl within a few minutes, the toilet has a leak that needs to be repaired.
- △ Don't waste water when brushing your teeth. Shut off the water until it is time to rinse.

Water Conservation Tips

- △ Don't waste water while shaving. Fill the sink with hot water instead of letting the water run continuously. Don't shave in the shower.
- △ Never use the toilet to dispose of trash.
- △ Get in the shower right away after the water becomes hot enough.
- △ Take short showers and wash hands using only as much water flow as you really need.
- △ Take a shower instead of taking a bath. Showers with water efficient showerheads often use less water than taking a bath.
- △ Turn off the water while you are shampooing your hair.
- △ Never run the dishwasher without a full load. This practice will save water, energy, detergent, and money. If your dishes are not very dirty, use the short wash cycle. If you buy a new machine, ask for a water saving model.
- △ Don't leave the water running when you aren't using it.
- △ Install faucet aerators. You'll never notice the difference and you'll cut your sink water consumption in half. Also, don't ignore leaky faucets, they waste lots of water.
- △ Your drinking water will be much more refreshingly cool if you keep a container of it in the refrigerator. Running water from the tap until it is cool is wasteful.
- △ Dry scrape dishes instead of rinsing. Your dishwasher will take care of the rest.
- △ Garbage disposals can waste water unnecessarily. Use them only for really messy stuff, not a heap of peels that can easily be dumped in the garbage.
- △ Soak pans rather than scrubbing them while the water is running.
- △ Rinse your vegetables in a pan of cold water; it doesn't take gallons of water to get the dirt off.
- △ Steam your vegetables instead of boiling them in a pot of water.
- △ Don't over-water your houseplants. More plants die from over-watering than from being on the dry side. Collect rainwater or recycle water from fish tanks to water your plants.