



Water Conservation Tips!

Watering Tips

- Water early in the morning to minimize evaporation.
- Never water faster than the ground can absorb the water.
- Know your soil and its watering needs.
- Next time you water, place 3 to 5 empty tuna or cat food cans at varied distances from the sprinkler. The time it takes to fill the cans is about how long you should water your lawn (This should take only 15 to 30 minutes).
- Adjust automatic irrigation schedules at least monthly to ensure water use efficiency.
- Step on the grass - if it springs back up when you move your foot, it does not need water.
- Arrange plants in your garden by light and watering needs.
- Consider drip irrigation systems around trees and shrubs (drip systems permit water to flow slowly to roots, encouraging strong root systems; these systems will also cut down evaporation).
- Adjust sprinklers to avoid watering sidewalks and driveways.
- Collect rainwater in a rain barrel for watering your lawn and plants.
- Cut grass no shorter than 2 inches to reduce evaporation and promote deep root growth.
- Use shut-off nozzles on hoses.
- Aerate your lawn as needed.
- When hiring an irrigator, look for certified landscape irrigation professional.

Car Washing Tips

- Use a bucket of water and use the hose only for quick rinses.
- If you use a hose to wash your car, be sure to use a hose nozzle or turn the water off when you are not using the water. Washing a car for 20 minutes can use up to 100 gallons of water if you let the water run the entire time.
- Wash your car and other items (bicycles and trash cans) on the lawn to prevent water from running down the storm drain.



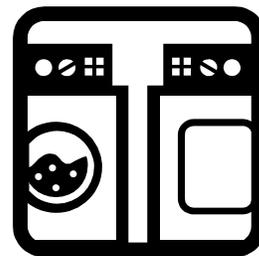
Toilets, Sink Faucets and Showerheads

The 1992 Federal Energy Policy Act required all toilets, sink faucets and showerheads manufactured in the United States after January 1, 1994 be low-volume fixtures. Toilets must use no more than 1.6 gallons per flush (gpf); sink faucets no more than 2.5 gallons per minute (gpm); and showerheads no more than 2.5 gpm, respectively. Fixtures installed before 1994 were not required to be retrofitted; therefore, 5 to 7 gpf toilets and 3 to 4 gpm sink faucets and showerheads are still in extensive use throughout the United States.

Tips for reducing water use



- If you still have a 5-gpf toilet, retrofit your toilet with a 1.6 gpf or less toilet.
- Do not use your toilet as a wastebasket.
- If you have a 5-7 gpf toilet, install a toilet tank dam or displacement ("zip-lock") bag and save up to 40% of your toilets water use.
- Check your toilets for leaks.
- Install a low-flow sink faucet or a sink faucet aerator.
- Turn the faucet off while brushing your teeth or shaving.
- Fill a pitcher when waiting for water to turn hot or cold and use the water to water your plants.
- Install a Demand (Tankless or Instantaneous) Water Heater and water and energy.
- Do not let the water run while washing the dishes; fill the sink instead.
- Keep a pitcher of drinking water in the refrigerator rather than running the water from the faucet until it is cold.
- Be sure to turn off sink faucets completely.
- Fix leaks.
- Install a low-flow showerhead.
- Take shorter showers.



Clothes Washers and Dishwashers

The efficiency of clothes washers and dishwashers installed between 1980 and the early 2000s are estimated to range from 27 gallons per load (gpl) to 51 gpl and 7 gpl to 14 gpl, respectively. Although recent models (since year 2000) are twice as water-efficient as those of 20 years ago (1980), water conservation measures are still important because as population increases, so does total water use.

- Run only full loads in your clothes washer and dishwasher.
- When shopping for a new clothes washer look for the WaterSense label.