

## WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

### Indoor Water Conservation Tips

- ◆ Never pour water down the drain when there may be another use for it. Use it to water your indoor plants or garden.
- ◆ Repair dripping faucets by replacing washers. One drop per second wastes 2,700 gallons of water per year.
- ◆ Check all plumbing for leaks. Have leaks repaired by a plumber.
- ◆ Retrofit all household faucets by installing aerators with flow restrictors.
- ◆ Install an instant hot water heater on your sink.
- ◆ Insulate your water pipes to reduce heat loss and prevent them from breaking.
- ◆ Install a water softening system only when the minerals in the water would damage your pipes. Turn the softener off while on vacation.
- ◆ Choose appliances that are more energy and water efficient.

### Bathroom

- ◆ Consider purchasing a low-volume toilet that uses less than half the water of older models. Note: In many areas, low-volume units are required by law.
- ◆ Place a one-gallon plastic jug of water into the tank to displace toilet flow (do not use a brick, it may dissolve and loose pieces may cause damage to the internal parts). Be sure installation does not interfere with the operating parts.
- ◆ Replace your showerhead with an ultra-low-flow version.
- ◆ Place a bucket in the shower to catch excess water for watering plants.
- ◆ Avoid flushing the toilet unnecessarily. Dispose of tissues, insects, and other similar waste in the trash rather than the toilet.
- ◆ Avoid taking baths – take short showers – turn on water only to get wet and lather and then again to rinse off.
- ◆ Avoid letting the water run while brushing your teeth, washing your face, or shaving

### Kitchen

- ◆ Operate automatic dishwashers only when they are fully loaded. Use the “light wash” feature, if available, to use less water.
- ◆ Hand wash dishes by filling two containers – one with soapy water and the other with rinse water containing a small amount of bleach.
- ◆ Clean vegetables in a pan filled with water rather than running water from the tap.
- ◆ Start a compost pile as an alternate method of disposing of food waste or simply dispose of food in the garbage (Kitchen sink disposals require a lot of water to operate properly).
- ◆ Store drinking water in the refrigerator. Do not let the tap run while you are waiting for water to cool.
- ◆ Avoid wasting water waiting for it to get hot. Capture it for other uses such as plant watering or heat it on the stove or in the microwave.
- ◆ Avoid rinsing dishes before placing them in the dishwasher; just remove large particles of food. (Most dishwashers can clean soiled dishes very well, so dishes do not have to be rinsed before washing).
- ◆ Avoid using running water to thaw meat or other frozen foods. Defrost food overnight in the refrigerator or use the defrost setting on your microwave oven.
- ◆ Operate automatic clothes washers only when they are fully loaded or set the water level for the size of your load.

### **Outdoor Water Conservation Tips**

- ◆ Check your well pump periodically. If the automatic pump turns on and off while water is not being used, you have a leak.
- ◆ Plant native and /or drought-tolerant grasses, ground covers, shrubs, and trees. Once established, they do not need water as frequently and usually will survive a dry period without watering. Small plants require less water to become established. Group plants together based on similar water needs.
- ◆ Install irrigation devices that are the most water efficient for each use. Micro and drip irrigation and soaker hoses are examples of efficient devices.
- ◆ Use mulch to retain moisture in the soil. Mulch also helps control weeds that compete with landscape plants for water.
- ◆ Avoid purchasing recreational water toys that require a constant stream of water.
- ◆ Avoid installing ornamental water features (such as fountains) unless they use recycled water.
- ◆ Use a shut-off nozzle that can be adjusted down to a fine spray on your hose.
- ◆ Use a commercial car wash that recycles water. If you wash your own car, park on the grass so that you will be watering at the same time.
- ◆ Avoid over watering your lawn. A heavy rain eliminates the need for watering for up to two weeks. Most of the year, lawns only need one inch of water per week.
- ◆ Water in several short sessions rather than one long one, in order for your lawn to better absorb moisture.
- ◆ Position sprinkler systems and timing devices regularly to be sure they operate properly.
- ◆ Raise the lawn mower blade to at least three inches or to its highest level. A higher cut encourages grass roots to grow deeper, shades the root system, and holds soil moisture.
- ◆ Plant drought-resistant lawn seed.
- ◆ Avoid over-fertilizing your lawn. Applying fertilizer increases the need for water. Apply fertilizers that contain slow-release, water-insoluble forms of nitrogen.
- ◆ Use a broom or blower instead of a hose to clean leaves and other debris from your driveway or sidewalk.
- ◆ Avoid leaving sprinklers or hoses unattended. A garden hose can pour out 600 gallons or more in only a few hours.
- ◆ Install a new water-saving pool filter. A single back flushing with a traditional filter uses 180 to 250 gallons of water.
- ◆ Cover pools and spas to reduce evaporation of water.