

WATER CONSERVATION TIPS FOR AROUND THE HOUSE

The earth is covered with water, yet only 1% is available for drinking. Our wasteful habits deplete clean water reserves faster than we can replenish them. By following a few simple steps you can reduce the amount of water you use and may save money on your water bill.

- Repair leaky toilets: A leaky toilet can waste up to 200 gallons of water per day. A leak can be detected by adding a few drops of food coloring to the water in the tank. If the colored water appears in the bowl, the toilet is leaking.
- Repair leaky pipes and faucets: A slow steady drip can waste 4,000 gallons of water per month. Not only does this waste water it increases sewer disposal costs and can increase your energy bill if it is hot water.
- Turn off faucets when not in use:
 - Do not let the faucet run when shaving; use rinse water in the sink.
 - Do not let the faucet run when brushing your teeth; use a glass of water to rinse.
 - Do not let the faucet run until the water is cold enough to drink; refrigerate a pitcher of water.
 - Do not let the faucet run when rinsing vegetables; use a pan of water or the sink instead.
 - Defrost food in the refrigerator or microwave rather than under running water.
- Install water conserving faucet aerators and showerheads.
- If you do not have a low flow toilet, place a weighted plastic bottle in the tank to displace a portion of the water, taking care to keep the bottle clear of any moving parts.
- Take shorter showers or a shower instead of a bath.
- Run washing machines only when full and on the proper load size selection.
- Run dishwashers only when full, using the water saver feature if available. If pre-rinsing dishes, use the sink and do not let the faucet run.
- Turn off icemakers and use ice trays instead.
- Use paper plates and cups to cut down on dishwashing.
- Use a broom or blower instead of hose to clean off sidewalks and driveways.
- When watering, don't water the sidewalks, driveway or street.
- Use water from dehumidifiers to water plants.
- If upgrading appliances or plumbing fixtures, choose the one that conserves water. A high efficiency, front loading washing machine can use 30% less water than a top loading model.