

Why Should YOU Conserve Water?

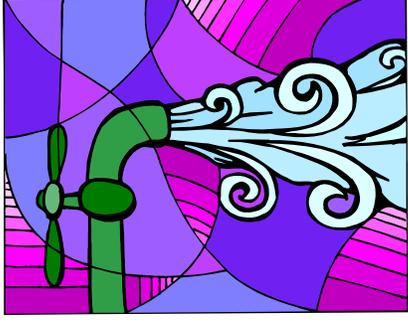
Only 1% of the entire water supply in the world is available for human use- the rest is salty or locked in ice caps and glaciers. The worlds agricultural, manufacturing, community, and personal household and sanitation operations all function on this small amount of usable water.

Conserving water is not only and environmentally friends act, but will also help you save money. While conserving water, you also conserve on other services. For example, when you use less hot water, there is less energy needed to heat the water, thereby reducing your gas and electric bill. When you use less water, a smaller amount of water reaches you sewer drains, thereby reducing your sewer bill.

An Average Home Uses More Than 200 Gallons Of Water daily

- Clothes washers use 56,000 gallons/year
- Dishwashers use 3,600 gallons/year
- Faucets use 35,000 gallons/year
- Irrigations systems use up to 100,000 gallons/year or more
- Showerheads use 37,000 gallons/year
- Leaks use 30,000 gallons/year
- Toilets use 60,000 gallons/year
- Only 1% of treated water is used as "drinking water".

WATER
WISE WEEK
OCTOBER 15-21



TIDEWATER



SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Water Wise Week
October 15-21

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CONSERVING
WATER AT

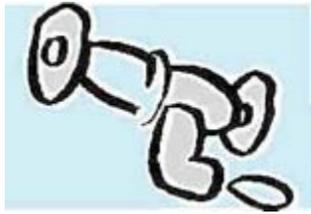
HOME

What Can YOU Do To Save Water?

Saving Water In The Kitchen & Laundry Room:

- Wait until you have a full load before using the washing machine or dishwasher.

- When purchasing a new washing machine or dishwasher, look for the European Eco label. This label indicates that the appliance is energy efficient, and usually water efficient as well.



- Front loading washing machines use up to 33% less water than top loaders.
- Hand washing woolen items works as well as a washing machine, but saves several liters of water.

- Use the plug in the sink and don't let the tap run when you are washing your hands.
- Use a bowl for preparing vegetables rather than running them under the tap.
- Try to avoid rinsing dishes before loading them in the dishwasher.
- Installing low flow restrictors/aerators to faucets (\$2-4) can save 5-10 gallons daily.
- Replacement of old washing machine with new high-efficiency machines can save 18 gallons of water per load.
- Replacing old dishwashers can reduce water usage by 30-50% per load.

Saving Water In The Bathroom:

- Turn off the water while brushing your teeth, shaving, or washing.
- Take showers rather than baths; baths use an average of 110 liters of water while showers on average use 30 liters.

- Toilets plumbed between 1983 and 1992 that have a dual flush cistern should use the shorter flush.

- Wrap hygiene products in tissue and put them in the trash bin rather than flushing them.

- Catch "warm up" water and use it for plants and insulate your hot water pipes to reduce the time it takes for your water to warm up.

- Take shorter showers.

- Use a high-efficiency shower head.

- Repair leaking toilet and faucets; 30-500 gallons of water can be wasted daily with a leaky toilet and 5 gallons of water can be wasted daily with a leaky faucet.

- Flush less frequently.

Saving Water In The Garden:

- Target specific area that need to be watered with a watering can rather than a hosepipe or sprinkler.



- Water your garden in the early morning or in the evening and when it is not windy to avoid evaporation. Adjust automatic watering systems to suit this time of day.

- Water less frequently, but deeply and thoroughly. This will help plants develop healthy, deep root systems.

- Lawns only need 1 inch of water per week; over watering causes 85% of turf problems

- Use leftover dishwater in your garden to help fend off aphids.

- Adding organic matter, such as compost, manure or leaf mold will increase moisture retaining qualities in your soil.

- Dig a little "moat" around trees and shrubs to collect water.

- Install a rain shutoff device to your sprinkler system.

- Collect rainwater with a rain bucket or cistern system with drip lines.

- Only water when the grass or plants show signs of needing it.

- Ensure that flower beds are level after planting to prevent water run-off.

- Keep your lawn looking greener by setting your mower blades higher to reduce the scorching effect of direct sunlight.



- Leave grass cuttings on your lawn to protect it from hot, sunny days.

- Choose border plants such as Alyssum, Sage (Salvia Officinalis), Ice Plant (Sedum Spectabile), Catmint (Nepeta Mussinii), Thyme (Thymus), Wallflower (Cheiranthus), Aubretia and Lambs Ear (Stachys Byzantina) and Plant shrubs such as Lavender (Lavandula), New Zealand Flax (Phormium Tenax), Rosemary (Rosmarinus Officinalis), Rock Rose (Cistus), Spanish Broom (Spartium) and Yucca.

- Grow grasses such as Blue Fescue (Festuca Glauca) and Maiden Grass (Miscanthus).

- Group plants according to their water requirements to limit the area covered when watering.

Saving Water On Your Car:

- Washing your car at the local automatic car wash saves time, effort, and it is likely that they recycle the water they use (excluding jet washes).

- Use a bucket and sponge, not a hose when washing your car at home.

