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Household Water Conservation Tips

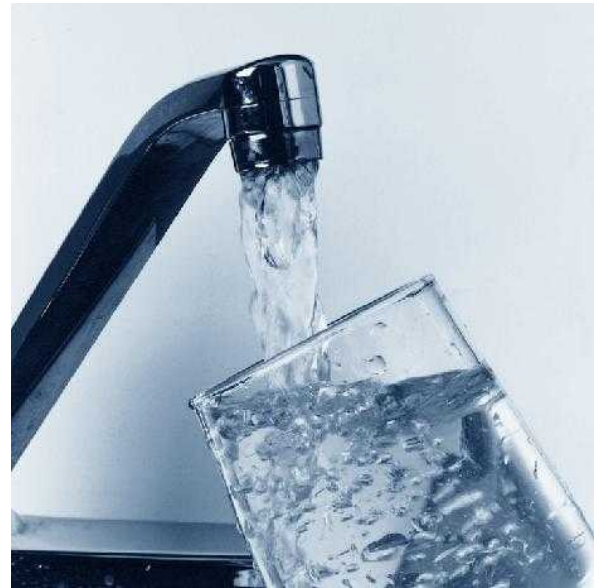
Save water, energy and money

Every drop matters

More than half of the public water supply goes to households. These households comprise over 240 million people, all depending on our shrinking water supply. While estimates vary, each of us uses up to 150 gallons of water per day, putting strain on our water resources and local sewer and water systems. When sewer systems are overburdened they often spill over into our rivers and streams. Conserving water lowers both water and energy bills and protects our natural resources.

Flushing dollars down the drain

- Your toilet represents the biggest use of household water. Install a low flow toilet and cut indoor water use by 20%. Even better, a composting toilet uses little to no water.
- Test your tank for leaks - put a few drops of coloring in the tank and see if the dye appears in the bowl. You may need to replace your flapper or ball.
- Place a plastic bottle filled with water in your tank and reduce the amount of water used by up to 10 gallons a day.



Keeping Clean

- If you have a dishwasher, only run full loads and consider investing in an energy star model. If you wash dishes by hand then don't let water run, instead fill up one side of the sink for rinsing.
- Install water-saving fixtures in the kitchen and bathroom and save at least 500 gallons of water every month. Visit www.epa.gov/watersense for product information and more.
- Reduce your time in the shower by 1-2 minutes and turn the water off while shaving and brushing your teeth.
- Wash only full loads of laundry or set your washer to the appropriate load size. Use cold water to save on energy bills. Invest in an efficient washing machine to reduce water and energy use.

Conserve and recycle water outdoors



- Get rid of your lawn, or at least use landscaping plants with lower water requirements. Native plants, shrubs, trees and rain gardens are all good options, and they reduce mowing and greenhouse gas emissions.
- Mulch around plants and trees to slow down evaporation and save at least 750 gallons of water per month. Create your own mulch and avoid using mulch that is directly harvested from forests and trucked for miles.
- Reach for a broom instead of a hose to clean the driveway and sidewalk.

Use free water

- Buy or make a rain barrel (pictured right) and capture the rain from your roof to use on your lawn, garden and house plants. Connect more than one rain barrel together and maximize your results.
- If permitted, install an above ground or underground cistern (tank) to harvest a large volume of rain water for household and lawn use.
- Plant a rain garden that utilizes water from driveway, patio or roof run-off. Rain gardens also replenish our underground water supply, reduce flooding and filter pollutants.



When you do turn on the water

- Use a drip irrigation system, which uses 20–50 percent less water than conventional in-ground sprinklers. A gravity fed system can be connected to your rain barrel.
- If you use a sprinkler or hose, set a timer to avoid over watering outdoors. More plants die from being over watered than under watered and a running garden hose can waste 10 gallons per minute.
- To prevent evaporation, only water in the morning and evening during cool parts of the day and avoid windy days.

For more Information:

www.sierraclub.org

www.waterconsciousness.org

www.epa.gov/watersense

www.wateruseitwisely.com

www.franklinswcd.org