

Water Conservation Tips

Conserving Water in the Bathroom

- Two thirds of the water used in an average home is used in a bathroom.
- From 2-7 gallons of water are used every time a toilet is flushed.
 - Do not use the toilet to flush items that can go in a wastebasket.
- Be aware of toilet leaks!
 - A major toilet leak can waste up to 800 cubic feet of water per day.
- Long hot showers use a large amount of water and energy to heat the water.
 - Consider using reduced-flow devices for showerheads.
- Don't leave the water running while you shave or brush your teeth.

Conserving Water in the Kitchen

- Be sure the dishwasher is fully loaded before running it.
- If you wash dishes by hand, do not let the water run while washing or rinsing.
- Don't let the water run while cleaning vegetables or other foods, either.
- Use a large pan or dish for rinsing.
- Store drinking water in the refrigerator instead of letting it run until it is cold.

Conserving Water in the Laundry Room

- Be sure to have full loads, or use the automatic controls for smaller loads.
- Use cold water for rinsing.

Conserving Water Outside

- Don't water if rain is in the forecast.
- Water grass and plants only if they show signs of needing it.
- Water during the coolest part of the day to avoid excess evaporation.
- Water slowly, as water applied too quickly runs off into the storm sewers.
- When washing the car, use a bucket for washing and only run the hose for rinsing.

Conserving Water with Plumbing Systems

- Install shut-off valves for appliances and fixtures in case a pipe blows out.
- Be sure to have a main shutoff valve that turns off water to the whole house, and make sure that it works.

Average Water Consumption: By the numbers

- Shower: 25-50 gallons (5-10 gallons/minute)
- Bath: 36 gallons (full tub)
- Toilet flush: 2-7 gallons
- Dish washing: 20 gallons (tap running)
- Automatic dishwasher: 12 gallons (full cycle)
- Clothes washer: 30-60 gallons (full cycle)
- Outdoor watering - 5-10 gallons per minute