

# Water Conservation Tips

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## IN GENERAL

- ✓ Watch for leaks. Pay attention to the SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS of plumbing, pool and spa leaks.
- ✓ Do a routine indoor/outdoor check every three months, or call professionals to do one for you.
- ✓ Check all faucets for drips. If a drip fills an 8-ounce glass every quarter hour, it will lose about 180 gallons per month. That's 2,160 gallons a year, enough for 30+ showers or baths! Drips can usually be fixed by replacing inexpensive washers or valve seats.
- ✓ Install flow restrictors or other conservation devices on all faucets. With these in the shower alone, you can cut your water use from 5 to 10 gallons per minute to as low as 1.4 to 3 gallons per minute.
- ✓ Wrap exposed indoor and outdoor pipes to prevent breakage in freezing weather.

## POOLS AND SPAS

- ✓ Do regular leak check-ups. A leak in the pool area can waste 1,000 gallons or more per day. Pay particular attention to your automatic water filler. If it's faulty, your water bill suffers.
- ✓ Keep track of the amount of chemicals you normally use. An increase in quantity used can also be a sign of a leak.
- ✓ Use a pool/spa cover to cut down on water loss (and heating costs) caused by evaporation.

## IN THE KITCHEN/LAUNDRY/LAWN

- ✓ One of the most common areas for water loss is the kitchen sink area.
- ✓ Check under cupboards once a week for wet spots or bowed cabinetry.
- ✓ Keep drinking water in the refrigerator so you don't have to run the tap water until the water gets cold enough to drink.
- ✓ Only run full loads in your dishwasher. Scrape food from plates with a utensil, not running water. Don't continuously run water in the sink but hand wash dishes in a sink full of soapy water and rinse all at once. Soak hard-to-clean pans overnight.
- ✓ Check sinks for drips or leaks once a week. Check grout and tiles in the shower area. Are any loose? Is grout missing, allowing water to flow beneath the tiles?
- ✓ Check toilets for leaks. Drop a teaspoon of food coloring into the tank. If the color appears in the bowl after 15 minutes, have the "flapper" valve replaced. If leaks continue, have a professional check your system. Decrease the amount of water used per flush. Replace regular or older toilets with new ultra-low flush models or put water displacement devices inside every toilet tank. Make them from plastic water bottles weighted down with pebbles. DO NOT PUT BRICKS IN YOUR TANK. They can dissolve and clog siphon jets.
- ✓ Walk around your property once a week and look for spongy or mushy ground where broken pipes might be hidden.
- ✓ Check sprinklers for jammed or malfunctioning heads. Use accurate, efficient sprinklers or drip irrigation systems instead of hand watering.
- ✓ Make sure to water your lawns during the coolest times of the day, before 10:00 a.m. or in the evening. Deep-soak lawns long enough for water to seep down to the roots, where it is needed. Water the lawns deeper and less often.
- ✓ Dig basins around individual plants to prevent run-off while watering. Put a layer of mulch around trees and plants to slow moisture evaporation.
- ✓ Landscape with native plants that take less water. Pull weeds as they steal water from desirable plants. S
- ✓ weep driveways, sidewalks and steps.
- ✓ Use a commercial car wash.
- ✓ Replace old appliances with newer, more efficient, energy-saving models. Cut your air conditioner's workload by positioning shade trees or awnings to reduce heat gain through windows.
- ✓ Close fireplace dampers in the summer.
- ✓ Close unused rooms.
- ✓ Close draperies.
- ✓ Turn off lights when not in use.
- ✓ Drink Tap Water

**Save a resource. It's money in the bank!**