



Economic Development and Retail Services Department

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Water-Saving Tips for Your home

Realizing water conservation and energy savings in the home is easy with these basic guidelines. If updating fixtures, systems or plumbing consider these suggestions to increase efficiency with your next purchases.

Indoor Tips

Bathroom

- Routinely check faucets and pipes for leaks.
- Consider low-flow shower heads that deliver 2.5 gallons of water per minute or less, and can save up to 5 gallons per minute over traditional shower heads.
- Take shorter showers. Use a timer and watch savings accumulate on your meter!
- An ultra-low-flow toilet uses only 1.6 gallons of water per flush.
- Dual flush toilets can flush 0.8 gallons of water per liquid flush and 1.6 gallons per solid flush. In a residential environment, dual flush toilets can save up to 68 percent.
- To check for toilet leaks, remove the toilet tank cover and drip 10 drops of food coloring or dissolving dye into the tank. After a short time, check the toilet bowl. If there is a leak, color will appear in the bowl.
- Use a trash can, not the toilet for disposing of trash in the bathroom.
- A high-efficiency, low-flow faucet aerator mixes air with water. This effective conservation technique will allow for water conservation without sacrificing water pressure. Without an efficient aerator, you could be using four times the amount of water.
- Added savings can be realized by turning off running water while shaving or brushing teeth.

Kitchen

- Run dishwasher with full loads to optimize water and energy savings.
- Use an Energy Star-rated dishwasher for increased efficiency.
- Keep a drinking water jug in the refrigerator to save excessive water waste at the faucet.
- Instead of a continuous stream of water to rinse dishes, put the sink stopper in place. Then when the garbage disposal is used, the wastewater will help drain rinsed particles as the disposal is run.
- A microwave or refrigerator offers greater efficiency for defrosting frozen food. Avoid defrosting food with running water.
- Avoid plastic icemaker waterlines. If you have them consider copper piping replacement to avoid leaks.

Laundry Room

- Select the proper water level for each laundry load.
- Use an Energy Star-rated washer and dryer to realize optimum energy efficiency.
- Consider a front-loading washing machine that typically uses one-third less water than a top-loading machine.
- Rubber hoses can crack and break, causing water leaks. Replace washing machine hoses every two years to help avoid water leaks.



Outdoor Tips

By developing an efficient sprinkler system and implementing simple water conservation practices significant savings can be achieved.

General Water Conservation

- Minimize evaporation by watering in the early morning or evening hours (before 9 a.m. or after 6 p.m.) when temperatures are cooler and winds are lighter.
- Water plants when needed but no more than three times a week.
- Water should be applied to a depth of six to eight inches with each watering.
- Apply water, only as fast as your soil can absorb it, so it does not pool or run off. If runoff or pooling does occur before water penetrates to six inches, try watering in two shorter cycles separated by a few hours.
- Delay watering after a rainfall until necessary.
- Direct downspouts so the runoff runs toward shrubs and trees.

Hand Watering

- Use a sprinkler to cover larger areas. Water smaller patches by hand to avoid water waste.
- A positive shut-off nozzle will place water on specific plants and avoid waste water pooling or runoff.

Irrigation Systems

- Sensors offer an efficient way to assure plants receive the appropriate amount of water while encouraging conservation and savings. A rain shut-off device or rain sensor will shut down an irrigation system when adequate moisture is detected in the soil.
- Know your irrigation controller. Setting your irrigation clock to match the needs of your plants can help save money and keep your plants healthier.
- Install spray heads with check valves on your irrigation system to avoid excessive draining after each watering cycle.
- Use a cycle/soak method. Divide your watering cycle into shorter periods to reduce runoff and allow for better absorption every time you water.
- Periodically check to ensure the system is functioning correctly. Check for proper head adjustment and emitters to ensure there are no leaks or breaks. If equipment is cut, clogged or pointing in the wrong direction, a lot of water will be wasted and plants will suffer.

Automobile Washing

- To increase savings and conservation use a water-filled bucket with soap to sponge clean the car.
- Use a hose to rinse off the soap once the wash is complete. A positive shut-off nozzle on your hose will help avoid water waste and runoff.