



Water Conservation



WHY MANAGE OUR WATER USAGE?

Fresh water is essential to our existence - it allows us to produce food, manufacture goods and sustain our health. Water is also an essential part of the natural environment, supporting all human, plant and animal life.

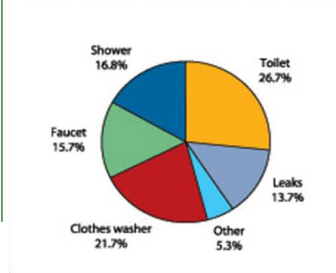
In addition to saving money on your utility bill, water conservation helps prevent water pollution in nearby lakes, rivers and local watersheds. Conserving water can also extend the life of your septic system by reducing soil saturation, and reducing any pollution due to leaks.

BEST PRACTICE AREA: SURFACE AND GROUNDWATER RESOURCES

DID YOU KNOW?

Thanks to low-flow regulations, the average toilet in the United States uses 1.6 gallons of water per flush. The average shower head in the United States dispenses 2.5 gallons of water per minute.

How Much Water Do We Use?



THE AVERAGE AMERICAN HOUSEHOLD of four people uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day. That's 146,000 gallons per year! Americans on average use more water than any other nation on earth per capita.

25 WAYS TO CONSERVE WATER

Water conservation in the home...

1. Check faucets and pipes for leaks: a small drip from a worn faucet washer can waste 20 gallons of water per day while larger leaks can waste hundreds.
2. Don't use toilet as waste bucket: every time you flush, five to seven gallons of water is wasted.
3. Use water meter to check for hidden water leaks: read the meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If not the exact same, there is a leak.
4. Install water-saving shower heads and aerators on household faucets. These are the best home water conservation methods and also the cheapest.
5. Put plastic bottles or float booster in toilet tank: fill two water bottles with an inch of sand and put into toilet tank, or buy an inexpensive float booster. This may save ten or more gallons per day.
6. Insulate your water pipes with pre-slit foam pipe insulation. You will get hot water faster plus avoid wasting water while it heats up.
7. Take shorter showers: a four minute shower uses approximately 20 to 40 gallons of water.
8. Turn off water while brushing teeth- just wet your brush and fill a glass for mouth rinsing.
9. Rinse your razor in the sink: fill sink with few inches of warm water to rinse.
10. Use your dishwasher and clothes washer for only full loads: for optimum water conservation.
11. Minimize use of kitchen sink garbage disposal units which take lots of water to operate properly.
12. When washing dishes by hand, don't leave water running for rinsing rather fill one basin with soapy water and the other with rinse water.
13. Keep drinking water in fridge: running tap water to cool it off for drinking is wasteful.

Water conservation in the yard and garden...

14. Plant drought resistance lawns, shrubs, and plants: many shrubs and plants thrive in far less watering than other species. Native plants will use less water and be resistant to local plant diseases. Plant slopes with plants that will retain water and help reduce runoff and group plants according to their watering needs.
15. Put a layer of mulch around trees and plants to slow evaporation of moisture while discouraging weed growth.
16. Don't water the gutter: position your sprinkler so water lands on lawn or garden, not paved areas. Also, avoid watering on windy days.
17. Water your lawn only when it needs it: step on the grass- if it springs back up when you move, it doesn't need water. If it stays flat, the lawn is ready for watering.
18. Water your lawn in the morning or in the evening when the sun is less intense. Your lawn will soak up more water before it is lost to evaporation.
19. Don't run the hose while washing your car.
20. Use a broom, not a hose, to clean driveways and sidewalks.
21. Check for leaks in pipes, hoses, faucets and couplings: leaks outside the house may not seem as bad since they are not as visible.
22. Place water toys (sprinklers, pools, Slip-N-Slides, etc.) in areas of your yard that need water. Turn off water toys after their use.
23. Use a Rain Barrel to collect runoff from your home's roof. Use the collected water to water your plants. The natural rain water is better for plants than treated tap water.
24. Install a drip-irrigation system.
25. Allow your grass to grow up to two to three inches before mowing. Mowing too often causes water to evaporate more quickly since the blades are short and not shading the root area.

