

# 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!**