

## Water conservation tips:

Here are some examples of things you can do to use water responsibly and save money too!

### Indoor Water-Saving Tips

- Listen for dripping faucets and running toilets. Small leaks can add up in a hurry. Check for leaky toilets by dropping a little food coloring in your toilet tank; if, without flushing, the color appears in the bowl, you have a leak. Fortunately, the flapper and fill valve are easy, inexpensive replacements.
- Take shorter showers. 5 minutes or less will add up to big savings.
- When taking a bath, plug the bathtub before turning the water on and then adjust the temperature as the tub fills.
- Keep a pitcher of drinking water in the refrigerator to avoid the wasteful habit of running tap water to cool it for drinking.
- Wash your fruits and vegetables in a pan of water instead of under a running faucet. You can then re-use the water for plants.
- Turning off the water while shaving can save up to 300 gallons a month. Turning off the water while washing your hair can save up to 150 gallons per month.
- Run the clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full.
- If your shower fills a one-gallon bucket in less than 20 seconds, install a water-saving 2.0 gpm low-flow showerhead.
- Replace the aerators on faucets with new efficient models rated 1.5 gallons or less per minute.
- If possible, replace toilets built before 1994; they use 3 1/2 gallons or more per flush, while newer WaterSense® labeled models use only 1.28 gallons or less per flush.

## Outdoor Water-Saving Tips

- Inspect your lawn irrigation system, outside faucets, hoses and drip sprayers, and fix leaks immediately. Small leaks can add up to high water bills quickly.
- Lawns in our area typically need 1 to 1.5 inches of water per week from irrigation or rainfall during summer to remain green and actively growing.
- The best time to water a lawn or garden is during the predawn and early morning hours, when wind is low and loss of water through evaporation is minimal. Watering early in the morning also helps prevent turf diseases. Avoid irrigating during mid-day and windy conditions.
- Make sure you water the lawn, not sidewalks and road surfaces. Move and adjust sprinklers frequently enough to avoid puddles and runoff. Water problem areas by hand to postpone the need for irrigation of the entire lawn. Some areas of a lawn usually dry out before others; spot water them as needed.
- Grasses can be trained to endure the season, developing deeper roots that draw moisture from a larger volume of soil. So water only if necessary. Rainfall can eliminate the need for lawn irrigation entirely – consider adding a rain sensor or weather smart system controller.
- Place mulch around trees and plants to retain water longer and slow evaporation.
- Don't run the hose while washing your car; use a bucket of water and a quick hose rinse at the end.
- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways and sidewalks.
- Learn how to shut off your irrigation system in case of leaks, malfunctions, or unexpected rains.
- Direct downspouts and other runoff toward shrubs and trees or collect rainwater and use it for plants.
- Choose shrubs and groundcover plants that have greater heat and drought tolerances and require less water.