

WANT TO SAVE MONEY AND HELP SUSTAIN OUR WATER RESOURCES?



THEN USE THESE WATER CONSERVATION TIPS FROM THE CITY OF DECATUR

Water conservation does wonderful things for all of us. For our Water Treatment Plant, it saves wear and tear on equipment and reduces the possibility of expensive repairs. For you the consumer, it saves you money by reducing your water and sewer bill. It's a win-win situation!

Water Conservation Tips for Outside your Home

- Choose water conserving plants.
- Use mulch around plants and shrubs which also reduces weed growth.
- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean outdoor walking surfaces.
- Use a bucket to hand wash your vehicle.
- Use a hose nozzle that turns on and off.
- Water before 9:00 a.m. when the temperature is cooler.
- Use rain barrels to collect rainwater for watering small gardens and potted plants.
- Know your plant's water needs.
- Know your soil type to prevent water run-off.
- Install a moisture sensor in each automatic sprinkler zone to avoid runoff.
- Deep soak shrubs in evening hours once or twice a week.
- Aerate your lawn once or twice a year to loosen soil and reduce compaction.
- Measure sprinkler output by placing three or more cans in various locations throughout the sprinkler pattern. Water for 15 minutes then measure the depth in the cans to see how much water the sprinkler has applied.
- Water efficiently by using a sprinkler that releases large drops of water close to the ground. Traveling sprinklers are some of the most efficient.
- Check your sprinkler coverage to make sure it covers just the lawn. Avoid watering on windy days.
- Periodically check the performance of an automatic sprinkler. These systems need annual maintenance.



Water Conservation Tips for Inside your Home

Bathroom

- Gurgling sounds coming from a toilet may mean wasted water. Check the flush ball or valve for adjustments. To check for a leak place a few drops of food coloring in the tank. If the color shows up in the bowl before the next flush, you have a leak.
- Placing a plastic jug weighted with sand or stones in the toilet tank can save five or more gallons per day. Make sure it doesn't interfere with the mechanism in the toilet tank.
- Install a high efficiency low water use toilet.
- Don't use a toilet as a wastebasket.
- Limit showers to five minutes or less. Turn off the water while shampooing and soaping up.
- Do not let water run while shaving or brushing your teeth.

Kitchen

- When washing dishes by hand, don't let the water run freely. Instead, rinse dishes in a basin or plug the second side of the sink. Soak pots and pans before scrubbing.
- When washing dishes by hand, use low sudsing detergents as they require less rinsing.
- Compost fruit and vegetable scraps to avoid running your garbage disposal.
- Run the dishwasher only with a full load.
- Set your dishwasher to "light wash" or other water saving settings.
- Store water from the tap in your refrigerator instead of letting the faucet run to get cold water.

Laundry

- Clothes washers are more water efficient if run only when full.
- Adjust your washer's water level to the size of each of your loads.
- To wash clothes by hand, don't let the water run. Instead, plug the laundry tub and reuse wash and rinse water. Starting with light colored clothes then progress to dark colored clothes.

Water Conservation Tips for All Around your Home

- Even a leak the size of a pinhole can waste 170 gallons a day. A trickle may add up to 250 gallons a day. Check for leaks by reading the outside water meter display before you go to bed. Check it again before turning any water on. If the display number has changed, you probably have a leak somewhere in your house. Start searching for a possible cause or call a plumber.
- Install water conserving fixtures.
- Replace high water use appliances.
- Avoid running the water until it is hot. Insulate your water heater and hot water pipes.
- Be conscious of water use inside and outside of your home.



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