

Water Conservation

Conservation does wonderful things for all of us. For the Water Treatment Plant, it saves wear and tear on the 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

- 💧 Use water-conserving plants in your landscape. A list of low water use/drought-tolerant plants is available at many local nurseries and the University of Illinois Extension Office.
- 💧 Use mulch around plants and shrubs. It not only conserves water but cuts down on weed growth as well.
- 💧 Use a broom instead of a hose to clean sidewalks, driveways and patios.

Lawn Strategy

- 💧 Water in the cool part of the day. Water during the early hours of the day, preferably before 10:00 a.m., to reduce evaporation.
- 💧 Adjust your water schedule. The amount of water your lawn requires varies from week to week and month to month.
- 💧 Know your plants' water needs. Different plants and turf grasses require varying amounts of water. Adjust watering to include rainfall.
- 💧 Know your soil type to prevent run-off. When water runs off the lawn and into the street, it often means that the soil is unable to absorb water as fast as it is being applied. Install a moisture sensor in each automatic sprinkler zone for the most efficient use of water.
- 💧 Aerate your lawn once or twice a year. Aeration loosens soil and reduces compaction so that more water will reach the roots.
- 💧 Only water when your lawn is dry. One simple test is to stick a screwdriver into the soil. If it offers little resistance to a depth of six inches, the soil has adequate moisture. Or step on the grass, which will lie flat if the moisture is low. If the blades bounce back quickly, wait a day or two to water.
- 💧 Water efficiently. Use a sprinkler that throws large drops of water close to the ground. Sprinklers which throw mist or small droplets of water high in the air result in excessive evaporation. Traveling sprinklers are the most efficient.
- 💧 Check your sprinkler coverage, making sure it covers just the lawn. Water on sidewalks, driveways and streets is a waste of your money. Avoid watering on windy days.
- 💧 If you have an automatic sprinkler system, periodically check its performance. Don't forget these systems need annual maintenance.

Water Conservation Tips for Inside

Bathroom

- 💧 Gurgling sounds coming from a toilet means water is being wasted. Check the flush ball or valve to see if they need adjusting. Or 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.
- 💧 A plastic jug weighted with sand or stones can be filled with water and placed in the toilet tank. This can save five or more gallons per day for a family of four. Make sure it doesn't interfere with the mechanism in the toilet tank.
- 💧 Avoid using the toilet as a wastebasket or ashtray. Extra flushes cost money and the items can cause expensive damage or clog the plumbing.
- 💧 Try to limit showers to five minutes. Each minute subtracted from your shower could save up to ten gallons of water. To save more water, turn off the water while lathering your hair and soaping up.
- 💧 Do not let the water run while shaving or brushing your teeth.

Kitchen

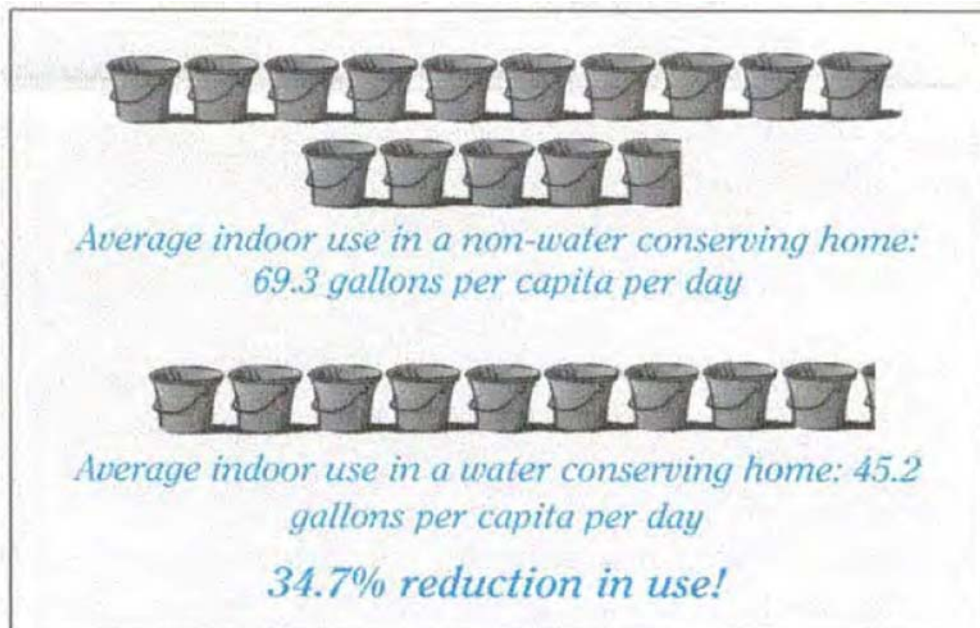
- 💧 When washing dishes by hand, don't let the water run freely. Instead of running water, rinse dishes in a basin or plug the second side of the sink and soak pots and pans before scrubbing.
- 💧 When washing dishes by hand, use low-sudsing detergents because they require less rinsing.
- 💧 Compost fruit and vegetable scraps to avoid running the disposal.
- 💧 Run the dishwasher only with a full load. Automatic dishwashers use about 15 gallons of water, regardless of the number of dishes in a load. If possible, set your dishwasher to "light wash" or other water-saving settings.
- 💧 Keep a bottle of drinking water in your refrigerator. It's money down the drain if you let the faucet run to get cold water.

Laundry Room

- 💧 Clothes washers are more water efficient if run only when they are full.
- 💧 If your washer has a variable load control, adjust the water level to fit the size of the load. Use any water-saving settings that are available on the machine.
- 💧 When washing clothes by hand, don't let the water run. Instead, plug the laundry tub and reuse wash and rinse water. Be sure to start with light-colored clothes and progress to dark-colored clothes.

Water Conservation Tips for All Around the House

- 💧 Even a leak the size of a pinhole can waste 170 gallons a day. A trickle may add up to 250 gallons a day. This adds up to costing you money. Check for leaks throughout the house by reading the outside meter before you go to bed. Check it again before turning any water on. If the meter has moved, you have a leak somewhere in the house. Start searching for a possible cause. If necessary, call a plumber. The money spent on a plumber can result in extensive savings in the long run.
- 💧 Install water-conserving fixtures. Flow restrictors and other devices are inexpensive and easy to install. Low-flow faucet aerators and showerheads use about half as much water without compromising performance.
- 💧 Replace high water use appliances. Check for use-per-load the next time you buy a clothes or dish washer.
- 💧 Avoid having to run the water until it is hot. Insulate your water heater and hot water pipes.
- 💧 Be aware of how you use water. Children playing in the bathroom sink or with the outside hose can use excessive amounts of water.



Source: American Water Works Association