

## **WATER CONSERVATION TIPS FOR CONSUMERS**

### **Lawn and Yard:**

- Morning is the best time to water most lawns. Before 10:00 am is best of all because rising heat later on tend to steal a lot of water by evaporation. Another benefit is that grass leaves have a chance to dry off quickly. Evening or night time waterings leave the grass wet and can allow lawn diseases to develop.
- A lush green lawn requires 1 to 1-1/2 inches of water a week. Water three times a week applying about ½ inch at a time. Keep in mind the amount of rainfall that might fall on your yard and adjust your watering schedule accordingly.
- If you let your grass grow to about 1-1/2 to 2 inches in the summer, water loss will be reduced because the blades will provide shade for the roots.
- Avoid watering when windy or in the heat of the day.
- Don't allow sprinklers to run unattended. Use a timer as a reminder when it's time to move or turn off the sprinkler.
- Lawns that are frequently aerated absorb water better.
- High nitrogen fertilizers stimulate lawn growth and increase water requirements.
- Thatch build-up in a lawn can create a rapid run-off situation. Every spring the lawn should be raked and dead grass removed.
- Sprinklers throwing large drops in a flat pattern are more effective than those with fine, high sprays.
- Forget about watering street, walks and driveways. They don't grow a thing.
- Mulch shrubs and other plantings so the soil holds moisture longer.
- When possible, flood irrigate vegetables and flower gardens rather than using sprinklers. Irrigation allows deeper soaking with less water. Sprinklers result in high evaporation loss of water.

### **All Around the House:**

- Check every faucet for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 or 20 gallons a day.
- Use a broom, not the hose, to clean the garage, sidewalks, and driveway.
- Wash the car from a bucket. Use the hose only to rinse off afterwards.
- Insulate the hot water heater, pay special attention to the insulation qualities of the shell. Avoid buying a larger tank than is necessary for your needs.

### **Bathing:**

Bathing usually consumes the second greatest quantity of water in the home.

- A shower generally uses less water than a bath.
- Do your showering and hair washing in one step.
- Fill the tub ¼ full. This is enough to cover an adult's body or float a child's toy.
- Most showers can be fitted with a flow restrictor or low-volume head to conserve water.

- Don't turn the shower on until you're ready to step in.

#### Sink:

- Don't leave water running while washing your face, shaving or brushing your teeth.
- An electric razor uses less energy than it takes to heat up the water for razor shaving.

#### Laundry:

- If your washer has a variable load control, always adjust water levels to fit the size of the load. This saves both water and the energy needed to heat the extra hot water.
- Run your washer when you have a full load.
- Remember that in soft water clothes get cleaner and require less detergent and less rinse water.
- When buying a new washing machine, look for models with water or energy-saving controls.

#### Washing Dishes:

- When washing dishes by hand, use a stopper in the sink and don't rinse with running water.
- Use low-siding detergents-they require less rinsing.
- Adding  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of vinegar to your wash water cuts grease more readily than hot water alone.
- Run your dishwasher only when you have a full load, since each load uses from 112 to 17 gallons of water.
- Use the prewash, rinse-hold and scrub cycles of your dishwasher only when necessary.

#### Cooking:

- Remove frozen foods from freezer before you're ready to use them so you won't have to use running water to hasten thawing.
- Always use lids on pots and pans.
- Use the smallest amount of water possible in cooking to save both water and nutrients. Most frozen vegetables require about  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup to 1 cup of water, not half a saucepan.
- Rather than letting the water run while peeling vegetables, rinse them briefly at the beginning and end of the chore.
- Don't let the faucet run for a cold drink. Keep a jug of water cooling in the refrigerator.

## Toilets:

Toilet flushing consumes nearly half of the daily household consumption using about 5-7 gallons per flush.

- Your toilet is not a wastebasket – don't use it to flush away cigarette butts or Kleenex.
- Most new toilets presently available on the market are engineered for low volume and use about 3-1/2 gallons per flush.
- Put a few drops of food coloring in your tank. If colored water shows in the bowl without flushing, there's a leak and repairs are needed.