

## **WATER WISE SUGGESTIONS**

**Wise use of our water resources helps the other water users, the environment, and saves you money !!**

**Practical steps can you take to reduce water consumption:**

**1. Water your lawn only when it needs it!**

Watering frequently can be very wasteful, as it does not allow for cool spells or rainfall that can reduce the need to water. Landscaping can use up to 50% of household water consumption. A good way to see if your lawn needs water is to step on the grass. If the grass springs back when you move your foot, it does not need water. Change your sprinkler clocks to suit weather conditions. (Remember less water is needed in spring and fall.)

**2. Deep-soak your lawn.**

When you do water your lawn, does it long enough for water to seep down to the roots where it will not evaporate quickly and where it will do the most good. A light sprinkling, which sits on the surface, will simply evaporate and be wasted. A slow, steady fall of water is the best way to irrigate your lawn.

**3. Use water efficient sprinklers.**

Use sprinklers that produce droplets instead of a mist to cut down on evaporation. Sprinklers that have a lower angle of spray relative to the ground also reduce the effect of the wind.

**4. Use a timer when sprinkling your lawn.**

Using a timer can help you to maximize your sprinkling time and prevent over-watering.

**5. Use shut-off nozzles on hoses.**

Use shut-off nozzles when washing your car or watering plants to prevent water wasting.

**6. Water during the cool part of the day.**

Avoid watering between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. During the cooler morning and evening hours, there is less evaporation and wind is generally lighter. Avoid watering on windy days when much of your water may be carried off before it ever hits the ground.

**7. Consider drip irrigation systems around shrubs and trees.**

Drip irrigation systems save on water and prevent evaporation.

**8. Don't water the gutter.**

Position your sprinklers in such a way that water lands on your lawn or garden, not on concrete where it does no good !

**9. Check for leaks in pipes, hoses, faucets and couplings.**

Leaks outside the house may seem bearable since they do not mess up the floor or drive you crazy at night. But they can be just as wasteful as leaks in the water meter line !.

**10. Plant drought resistant trees and plants and switch all or part of your lawn to a native, less-thirsty type of grass.**

Visit your local nursery to see the many varieties of trees, plants and grass that thrive in your local area and require far less water than other species.

**11. Use a broom to clean driveways, sidewalks and steps.**

A broom is another way for cleaning these areas. Using a hose wastes hundreds of gallons of water.

**12. Put a layer of mulch around trees and plants.**

A layer of mulch (3-4 inches) will slow the evaporation of moisture and inhibit weeds.

**13. Mow infrequently.**

Mowing puts grass plants under additional stress and they may require more water.

**14. Mow higher than normal.**

Longer leaf surfaces promote deeper rooting and shade the root zone which reduces water consumption and allows the grass to reach water deeper in the soil. Never remove more than a 1/3 of leaf blade in one mowing. Return mulched clipping to your lawn.

**15. Don't run the hose while washing your car.**

Soap your car with a pail of soapy water. Then use the hose to rinse it off.

**16. Teach children that your hose and sprinklers are not toys.**

There are few things more cheerful than the sound of happy children playing under a hose or sprinkler on a hot day. Unfortunately, there are also few things more wasteful of precious water.

**17. Check the toilets for leaks.**

A leak in your toilet may be wasting more than 100 gallons of water a day. To check, put a little food coloring in the toilet tank. If, without flushing, the coloring begins to appear in the bowl, you have a leak. Adjust or replace the flush valve, or call a plumber.

**18. Stop using the toilet as an ashtray or waste basket.**

Every time you flush a cigarette butt, facial tissue or some other small bit of trash down the toilet, you waste up to 2 gallons of water, or up to five to seven gallons

with older toilets.

**19. Replace your old toilet.**

Toilets are the biggest water users inside the home. Consider replacing your old toilet with a new ultra-low-flow toilet. These toilets use approximately 1.6 gallons per flush as opposed to older style toilets that use five to seven gallons per flush. The new toilets are readily available and come in many styles and colors.

**20. Take shorter showers.**

If shower heads have not been replaced with low volume heads, long, hot showers can waste 5 to 10 gallons of water every unneeded minute. Limit your showers to the time it takes to soap up, wash down and rinse off.

**21. Install water-saving shower heads.**

Replace your old shower heads with a new low-flow-shower head that uses 2.5 gallons per minute. A good low-flow produces a great shower. Try it! You'll like it! (And you'll save water, too.)

**22. Turn off the water after you wet your toothbrush.**

After you have wet your toothbrush and filled a glass for rinsing your mouth, there is no need to keep water pouring down the drain.

**23. Rinse your razor in the sink.**

Before shaving, partially fill your sink with a few inches of warm water. This will rinse your blade just as efficiently as running water and far less wastefully.

**24. Check your faucets and pipes for leaks.**

Even the smallest drip from a worn washer can waste 50 or more gallons of water a day. Larger leaks can waste hundreds of gallons.

**25. Use your automatic dishwasher only for full loads.**

Every time you run your dishwasher, you use about 25 gallons of water.

**26. If you wash dishes by hand, don't leave the water running for rinsing.**

If you have two sinks, fill one with soapy water and one with rinse water. If you have one sink, gather all the washed dishes in the dish rack and rinse them with an inexpensive spray device.

**27. Install a low flow aerator in your kitchen sink.**

Aerators can cut your faucet water use in half.

**28. Don't let the faucet run to clean vegetables.**

To wash vegetables, put a stopper in the sink and fill with a few inches of clean water.

**29. Keep a bottle of drinking water in the refrigerator.**

**30. Use your automatic washing machine only for full loads.**

Your automatic washer uses 30 to 35 gallons of water in a cycle. That's a lot of water for three T-shirts ! Consider some of the newer models that reduce water use by up to 50 % and energy use a similar amount.