Water Conservation Tips

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CONSERVE & $AVE

The water you use doesn't appear magically. It is carefully pumped from our clean, safe, and reliable groundwater aquifers and piped directly into your home. Water is a valuable resource that shouldn't be wasted. Besides, you're paying for every drop whether it's used or wasted! Water conservation is a good way of life – let's practice it together!

In the Kitchen

- When cooking, peel and clean vegetables in a large bowl of water instead of under running water.
- Fill your sink when washing and rinsing dishes.
- Only run the dishwasher when it's full.
- When buying a dishwasher, select an Energy Star® model with a "light-wash" option.
- Only use the garbage disposal when necessary (composting is a great alternative).
- Repair leaking faucets.
- Install WaterSense® water-saving faucet aerators.
- Keep a bottle/jug of drinking water in the refrigerator – running tap water to cool it off for drinking water is wasteful.

In the Bathroom

- Take short showers instead of baths.
- Turn off the water to brush teeth and soap up in the shower. Fill the sink to shave.
- Repair leaking faucets.
- Install WaterSense® water-saving faucet aerators and low-flow showerheads.
- Repair leaky toilets. Add 12 drops of food coloring into the tank, and if color appears in the bowl one hour later, your toilet is leaking.
- When needed, replace your toilet with a WaterSense® high-efficiency model.
- 30% of home water use is flushed down the toilet – avoid unnecessary flushing and you'll save big.
- Don't use your toilet as a wastebasket.

In the Laundry Room

- Wash only full loads of laundry, or set the machine for the correct sized load.
- When purchasing a new clothes washer, buy an Energy Star® high-efficiency model, which uses 45% less water than regular washers.
- Repair leaking faucets.
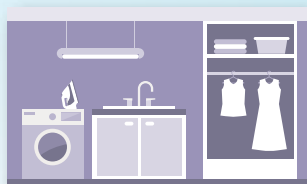
Outdoors

- Apply mulch around shrubs and flower beds to reduce evaporation, promote plant growth, and control weeds.
- Maximize the use of natural vegetation and establish smaller lawns. Consider planting more trees, shrubs, ground covers, and less grass.
- Add compost or an organic matter to soil as necessary, to improve soil conditions and water retention.
- When mowing your lawn, set the mower blades to 2-3 inches high. Longer grass shades the soil improving moisture retention, allowing it to grow thicker and develop a deeper root system.
- Only water the lawn when necessary. Step on the grass. If it spring back up, it doesn't need watering. If it stays flat, the lawn is ready for watering. Water your lawn during early morning or later evening hours to minimize evaporation and to ensure the water get soaked up by the lawn.
- Replace a standard clock timer with a WaterSense® labeled, weather-based irrigation controller, which can save an average home nearly 8,800 gallons of water annually.
- Collect rainfall in a rain barrel for irrigation.
- When washing a car, wet it quickly, then use a bucket of soapy water to wash the car. Turn on the hose to final rinse. Or take your car to a self-serve car wash, which will use half the water of a home wash.
- Use a broom to clean walkways, driveways, decks and porches, rather than hosing off these areas.
- Repair leaking outdoor faucets, pipes, and hoses.
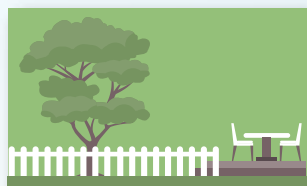
CONSERVE & $AVE®

When you purchase new water-efficient appliances and equipment, always look for the Energy Star® and WaterSense® labels. By doing so, your family can save water, energy, and money while ensuring product performance.

Plus, RPU will give you a CONSERVE & SAVE® rebate on your purchase! Water-efficient products that are eligible for a rebate include:

- Energy Star® Clothes Washers
- WaterSense® High-Efficiency Toilets
- Rain Barrels
- Rotating Sprinkler Nozzles
- WaterSense® Weather-Based Irrigation Controllers

For a complete list of rebate amounts, and to download rebate applications with minimum efficiency requirements and complete terms and conditions, visit www.rpu.org.

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