

Tips for Reducing Water Consumption

IN THE BATHROOM

- Check for toilet leaks – drop about 10 drops of food colouring into the tank, after 10-15 minutes check for dye colour in the toilet bowl. If you see any dye in the bowl your toilet has a leak. Toilet leaks can waste hundreds of litres a day. If water is flowing down the overflow pipe, adjust the float. Otherwise, replace the flapper with a good quality model.
- If you are a larger water user, consider replacing your existing toilet with a high-efficiency, water saver toilet that uses only 6 litres per flush. On average most existing toilets use about 16 litres per flush. Don't use your toilet as a wastebasket. Bugs and used facial tissue should go in the trash instead of being flushed.
- Turn off the faucet when brushing your teeth, shaving, or washing your face and you'll save 10 to 30 litres of water each minute.
- Install low-flow faucet aerators that use no more than 9 litres of water per minute. Most faucets use between 12 and 30 litres per minute.
- Fix leaky faucets right away. Simply replacing the washer may fix the leak. Even small drips caused by worn washers can waste 90 litres of water or more a day. Large leaks can waste hundreds of litres.
- Shorten your shower time. A five minute shower instead of a ten minute shower will save anywhere from 50 to 100 litres.
- Install high-efficiency, low-flow shower head that uses no more than 9 litres of water per minute.
- When taking a bath, close the tub drain before turning on the water to avoid wasting cold water that will be needed later on to cool the bath.

IN THE KITCHEN

- Instead of letting the faucet run until the water is cold enough to drink, keep a container of drinking water in the refrigerator. Faucets can use from 12 to 30 litres of water per minute
- Clean vegetables and fruit in a pan of water, not under a running faucet. Use a vegetable brush to remove dirt.
- Run the dishwasher only when it's fully loaded. Most dishwashers use between 50 and 65 litres of water, full or empty. When loading the dishwasher scrape food off dishes and pots instead of rinsing them.
- When defrosting food, thaw it in the refrigerator instead of running water. This may take some extra time but will save a good deal of water.
- For your kitchen sink, install a high efficiency low-flow faucet.
- If you wash dishes by hand, fill the sink or a pan with soapy water instead of letting the faucet run while soaping dishes. Rinse dishes in a filled sink or a pan of water and avoid running the faucet to rinse.

LAUNDRY

- Washers use between 135 and 225 litres of water per full load. Run the washing machine only when it's fully loaded. Some washing machines have controls that let you select the load size appropriate to the load. Small loads need less water.
- If you're thinking about buying a new washing machine, consider the new front load washers. These cost more, but use 1/3 less water per load and require less energy for drying than top-loading washing machines

SAVING WATER OUTDOORS

- Use a broom, not a hose, to clean driveways, sidewalks, and other hard surfaces.
- If you own a pool, get a cover for it to help prevent pool water evaporation. A pool can lose about 4500 litres of water per month. A pool cover can cut this loss by up to 90%.
- Don't let your hose run while washing your car. Use a bucket and brush and rinse with a hose equipped with a shutoff nozzle.
- Adjust your lawnmower to a higher setting. Longer grass blades on your lawn provide shade and help to hold moisture in longer.
- Lay mulch around trees and plants at least 2.5 centimeters or 1 to 2 inches deep to retain moisture, slow evaporation, and discourage weed growth.
- When watering your lawn, water infrequently, but thoroughly applying 2.5 centimeters or 1 inch so that moisture soaks down to the roots. This encourages deeper, healthier root systems and allows the lawn to go without water for a longer time. Place a tuna can on the part of the lawn that you are watering to determine how much you are putting on. Stop when you have 2.5cm or 1 inch in the can.
- Water during the cool of the day to reduce loss to evaporation – late evening or early morning.
- Set your sprinkler to avoid watering patios, drives and walks. If you don't have an automatic sprinkling system, set a kitchen timer or invest in a sprinkler timer to help prevent over-watering. Outdoor faucets can flow at rates as high as 1300 litres per hour.