

SAVING WATER INSIDE YOUR HOME

Are you using more water than you thought? Take a look at your bill. The average daily water use in our District is between 50 and 200 gallons per person per day. You'd be surprised at how much water you are using and money you can save by following conservation tips.



Inside your house, bathroom facilities claim nearly 75% of the water used.

Never pour water down the drain when there may be another use for it such as watering a plant or garden, or for cleaning around your home.

Verify that your home is leak free. Many homes have hidden water leaks. Read your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter does not read exactly the same, there is a leak.

Repair dripping faucets by replacing washers. If your faucet is dripping at a rate of one drop per second, you can expect to waste 2,700 gallons per year. This adds to the cost of water and sewer utilities and adds to your water bill.

Retrofit all household faucets by installing aerators with flow restrictors to slow the flow of water.

Check for toilet tank leaks by adding food coloring to the tank. If the toilet is leaking, color will appear in the toilet

bowl within 30 minutes. Check the toilet for worn out, corroded or bent parts. Most replacement parts are inexpensive, readily available and easily installed. (Flush as soon as test is done, since food coloring may stain tank.)

If the toilet handle frequently sticks in the flush position letting water run constantly, replace or adjust it.

Install a toilet dam or displacement device such as a bag or bottle to cut down on the amount of water needed for each flush. Be sure installation does not interfere with the operating parts. When purchasing new or replacement toilets, consider low-volume units which use less than half the water of older models. In many areas, low-volume units are required by local building codes.

Take shorter showers. Replace your showerhead with an ultra-low-flow version. Some units are available that allow you to cut off the flow without adjusting the water temperature knobs.

Place a bucket in the shower to catch excess water and use this to water plants. The same technique can be used when washing dishes or vegetables in the sink.

In the shower, turn water on to get wet; turn off to lather up; then turn back on to rinse off. Repeat when washing your hair.

When washing dishes by hand, fill one sink or basin with soapy water. Quickly rinse under a slow-moving stream from the faucet.

Store drinking water in the refrigerator. Don't let the tap run while you are waiting for cool water to flow.

Do not use running water to thaw meat or other frozen foods. Defrost food overnight in the refrigerator or use the defrost setting on your microwave.

Consider installing an instant water heater on your kitchen sink so you don't have to let the water run while it heats up. This will reduce water heating costs for your household.

Don't let water run while shaving or washing your face. Brush your teeth first while waiting for water to get hot, then wash or shave after filling the basin.

Install water softening systems only when necessary. Save water and salt by running the minimum amount of regenerations necessary to maintain water softness. Turn softeners off while on vacation.

If you have a well at home, check your pump periodically. Listen to hear if the pump kicks on and off while water is not being used. If it does, you have a leak.

Avoid flushing the toilet unnecessarily. Dispose of tissues, insects and other similar waste in the trash rather than the toilet.



SAVING WATER OUTSIDE YOUR HOME

CONSERVATION:

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use in our District is 50 to 200 gallons per person per day.

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Water is the lifeblood of the Four Corners area. So we must all do our part to use water wisely and insure an adequate water supply for ourselves and future generations.

Water Conservation not only will help save water, it will also save you money. The following tips can help you do your part to live a more water-wise lifestyle.

OUTSIDE:

If you have a lawn, chances are this is your biggest water useage. Typically, at least 50% of water consumed by households used outdoors. Inside your house, bathroom facilities claim nearly 75% of the water used.



Evaporative coolers require a seasonal maintenance check-up. For more water effi-

cient cooling, check your evaporative coolers annually.

When washing the car, use soap and water from a bucket. Use a hose with a shut-off nozzle for the final rinse.

Use a broom when cleaning your driveway.

Adjust sprinklers so only the lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk, or street. Do not water on windy days. Check and maintain your sprinkler system regularly. A heavy rain means you don't have to water at all. Teach the family how to turn off an automatic sprinkler system in case a storm comes up during the sprinkling cycle.

Water your lawn every third day. Always water during the cool time of the day to minimize evaporation. Early morning is best, and the peak water consumption hours (4 p.m. - 9 p.m.) should be avoided.

Minimize grass areas in your yard because less grass means less water demand. Replace with low-water use landscaping.

Adjust your irrigation schedule to accommodate changes in seasonal water demand. Install an automatic timer.

Buy a rain gauge to deter-

mine how much rain or irrigation your yard has received.

When mowing, raise the blade on your lawn mower to at least three inches high, or to its highest level. Closely-cut grass makes the roots work harder, requiring more water.

For landscaping, use native or other low water use plants. Check with your local nursery for the best native or low-water use trees, shrubs and plants.

Using a layer of mulch around plants reduces evaporation and promotes plant growth. Water retaining basins also allow water to be concentrated around the plants.

GENERAL WATER SAVING TIPS

- 💧 Be aware of and follow all water conservation and water shortage rules in effect in your community. Don't assume — even if you get your water from a private well — that you need not observe good water use rules. Every drop counts.
- 💧 Encourage your employer to promote water conservation in the workplace. Suggest that water conservation be put in employee orientation and training programs.
- 💧 Report all significant water losses (broken pipes, open hydrants, errant sprinklers, abandoned free-flowing wells, etc.) to the property owner, local authorities or your water management district.
- 💧 Encourage your school system and local government to help develop and promote a water conservation ethic among children and adults.
- 💧 Support projects that will lead to an increased use of reclaimed waste water for irrigation and other uses.
- 💧 Support efforts and programs that create a concern for water conservation among tourists and visitors to our state. Make sure your visitors understand the need for, and benefits of, water conservation.
- 💧 Encourage your friends and neighbors to be part of a water-conscious community. Promote water conservation in community newsletters, on bulletin boards and by example. Encourage your friends, neighbors and co-workers to “do their part”.
- 💧 Conserve water because it is the right thing to do. Don't waste water just because someone else is footing the bill, such as when you are staying at a hotel.
- 💧 Try to do one thing each day that will result in saving water. Don't worry if the savings are minimal. Every drop counts. You can make a difference.

