

Tips for Conserving Water

The following tips can be used to save water as a general practice and during water use restrictions. Properties with spray irrigation are required to conserve water as a general practice. See the [Irrigation Systems](#) document on the town's website for more information.

In the bathroom:

Reduce the amount of water used by:

- Wetting your toothbrush and then turning off the faucet.
- Rinsing your razor in a partially filled sink instead of under a running tap.
- Shortening your shower. A one- or two-minute reduction can save up to 700 gallons of water each month.
- Taking a shallow bath. This provides even greater water savings than a short shower.
- Replacing your showerhead with low-flow showerheads or installing flow restrictors.
- Installing ultra-low flush toilets and faucets if building or remodeling a home.

Reduce the amount of water flushed by:

- Flushing only when necessary and disposing of trash in the trash can. Each time you flush a small bit of trash, you waste 5 to 7 gallons of water and you risk clogging sewer pipes.
- Putting a filled plastic bottle in your toilet tank. Weigh down the bottle by filling it with water and a small amount of pebbles. Place it in your toilet tank away from operating mechanisms. This can save you 10 or more gallons of water each day.

Check for leaks:

- In toilets by dropping a dye tablet or a few drops of food coloring in your toilet tank and avoiding flushing for at least three hours. If color appears in the bowl without flushing, your toilet has a leak that could be wasting thousands of gallons of water each year.
- In faucets and pipes. Replace worn washers. A small drip from a worn washer can waste 20 or more gallons a day. Large leaks can waste hundreds.

Save water for other use by:

- Placing a bucket under the bath faucet when waiting for water to warm. Use the retained cold water later for house plants or to refill the toilet tank after flushing.
- Using water from pet dishes or dehumidifiers to water plants.

In the kitchen and laundry:

Reduce the use of running water by:

- Keeping water in the refrigerator for drinking vs. running the faucet until water gets cold.
- Rinsing vegetables in a pan of water.
- Defrosting frozen foods in the microwave or refrigerator.
- Using the garbage disposal less and the garbage can more often. Better yet, compost! Disposing of food scraps and grease and oils down kitchen sinks also risks clogging sewer pipes.

- Filling one sink with soapy water and one with rinse water when washing dishes by hand. If you have only one sink, use a dish rack and rinse with hot water.
- Using the smallest amount of detergent possible when washing dishes by hand. This reduces the amount of rinse water needed. It also reduces the risk of clogged sewer pipes.
- Using your dishwasher and washing machine for full loads only.

Check for leaks:

- In faucets and pipes. Replace worn washers immediately.
- By listening carefully for running water.
- By looking for wet spots in the yard between the water meter and house.

If considering the replacement of large appliances:

- Select front-loading washing machines, which may use 38% less water than top-loaders.
- Consider that new dishwasher models are more water- and energy-efficient.

Outside:

If possible, regarding plantings:

- Reduce or eliminate watering grass, bushes and plants.
- Reduce or eliminate planting new plants.

If possible, regarding maintenance:

- Avoid washing vehicles at home. Most commercial car washes recycle the wash water. Also, the soapy runoff from washing vehicles is not good for the environment or stormwater system.
- Consider delaying projects that are water-use intensive, such as:
 - Draining and refilling a hot water heater.
 - Filling ponds, hot tubs, fountains or pools.
 - Power washing.
 - Carpet cleaning with your own steam cleaner.
 - Painting in which the washing of brushes, rollers and trays will be needed.
 - Masonry projects that need a water mix for grout or concrete.

When dining out:

Regarding drinking water:

- If you won't be drinking water, ask that no tap water be served.
- If you will be drinking water, ask for bottled water during water restrictions.