

# Conservation at Home

Water conservation is something everyone should practice. Except for the air we breathe, water is the single most important element in our lives. It's too precious to waste. Here are some useful facts and simple suggestions that will help you understand more about water. They will help you save hundreds, even thousands, of gallons of water per month without any great inconvenience.

## Top 10 Water Conservation Tips

### Ways To Incorporate Water Conservation In Your Home

- **Purchase and install WaterSense labeled toilets.**
  - ◇ Ultra low flush toilets which may cost under \$100 to over \$300 depending on the type purchased, use only about 1.28 gallons per flush. That could cut your family's total indoor water use by as much as 20%.
- **Don't let the water run when brushing your teeth, washing your face or shaving. Most of it will be wasted. Just take what you need and save the rest.**
- **Control your irrigation.**
  - ◇ Purchase a WaterSense labeled irrigation controller which will act like a thermostat for your sprinkler system, telling it when to turn on and off.
  - ◇ Make sure all irrigation water is landing in the desired location and not on sidewalks, driveways or streets.
- **When loading your dishwasher or washing machine, make sure that you are filling them up. Running a cycle through one larger load saves more water than running multiple, smaller loads.**
- **If everyone in the U.S. flushed the toilet just one less time per day, we could save a lake full of water about a mile long, a mile wide, and four feet deep..... Every day!**
- **Check for leaks.**
  - ◇ A faucet drip or invisible toilet leak that totals only two tablespoons a minute turns into 15 gallons per day. That's 105 gallons a week and 5,460 wasted gallons of water a year. Just think how much money you could save while saving water!
- **Do your lawn sprinkling early in the morning, between 6:00 am –9:00 am. After 10:00 am, both heat and evaporation increase, robbing the lawn of moisture.**
- **Purchase a cover for your pool or hot tub. Making sure your pool or hot tub is covered when not in use can help reduce evaporation.**
- **Landscape for water conservation.**
  - ◇ Try the concept of Xeriscape™ which means "landscaping for water conservation." Purchase plants that require less water to survive. Use more mulched perennial areas instead of grass.
  - ◇ Decorate creatively with interesting hardscape objects that do not require water such as bricks, benches, rocks and gravel.
- **Get a two-for-one deal when cleaning your fish tank.**
  - ◇ When cleaning your fish tank, use the dirty water to water your houseplants. This water is rich in nitrogen and phosphorous.



## Did You Know?

There is as much water in the world today as there was thousands of years ago. Actually it's the same water!

Nearly 97% of the world's water is salty or otherwise undrinkable. Another 2% is locked in icecaps or glaciers. That leaves just 1% for ALL of humanity's needs!

The United States alone uses some 45 billion gallons of water every day. Only about 6% of that, 27 billion gallons, is taken by public water supply systems.

Indoor water use varies from family to family but they average out pretty reliably. Nearly 40% gets flushed down toilets, more than 30% is used in showers and baths, laundry and dishwashing take about 15%, leaks claim 5% or more, which leaves 10% for everything else.



**We are here to help!**

Village of Shorewood  
One Towne Center  
Blvd.  
Shorewood, Illinois  
60404  
815-553-2321