

# DRINKING WATER

## CONSERVATION GUIDANCE

Conservation Education Newsletter

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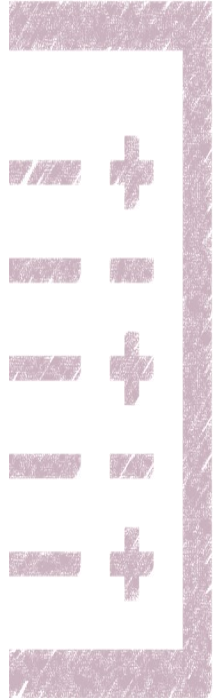


### What is Water Conservation

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) defines Water Conservation as the following:  
**“Water Conservation generally refers to a reduction in the amount of water used.”**

### Quick ‘no-cost’ tips to Reduce Water Usage

- Reduce your amount of wasted water; wasted water scenarios that can be avoided could be the following:
  - Do not let the water run while brushing your teeth
  - Do not let the water run while scrubbing dishes
  - Do not use running water to defrosting food
  - Do not let the water run while washing / scrubbing your car
- Have you checked the piping in your home? Check for any possible leaks in your pipes, this includes toilets and sinks. A small leak can still add up to a huge amount of wasted water.
- Whether using your dishwasher and/or washing machine, be sure to only do full loads of clothes and/or dishes. Half loads does not equal half water usage, therefore if you are going to run a load of clothes or dishes make sure the unit is full.
- Stop using water to clean your gutters on your home, a broom can just as easily push all the leaves and debris out of your gutters.
- If possible, the lower the amount of dinner plates and cups used the less likely you will have to run the dishwasher.
- Use collected rainwater from bins to water your garden or lawn. However, do not let water build up and become stagnate though, be sure to use collected water to avoid any potential mosquito growth.
- It's okay to reuse towels more than once before washing. Cut back on how many times you find yourself washing towels, if possible try to air dry.
- Lawn Care Tip:** Do not over water your lawn, extra water for your lawn will not ensure a better lawn growth, in fact too much water can do damage to grass roots.
  - Advanced tip:** Consider watering your lawn by hand. Yes it is an old fashion method but watering your lawn by hand will allow you to gauge how much water is truly going to the lawn instead of a sprinkler running for endless hours and wasting water.



### Bad Habits to Change in Saving Water

- Try not to use your toilet as a trash can. Tissues along with many other common bathroom related items are meant to be placed in the trash, not flushed down into the septic and wasting more needed water.
- At the beginning of your shower, try not to waste the water for the initial warm up period. Start your day fresh with a cold shower or run the water into a bin and use that later for watering your lawn or plants.
- Do not brush your teeth or shave while in the shower. Either shaving or brushing your teeth can be done in a method that uses less water than standing in the shower.
- Shorter showers! You could even make it a contest within your household to entice other to take shorter showers.
- Reconsider plants you buy for your garden, consider plants that require much less water.
- If you haven't already, adding mulch to your garden can be a huge advantage in holding in moisture for your plants. This can save you from having to water all the time.