

WATER CONSERVATION Tips to Reduce Waste

- 1...DISHWASHER:** Set the dial to energy savings. Limit dishwashing to full loads even if it takes two to three days. Clean recyclables in the dishwasher, only when space permits.
- 2...HAND WASH DISHES:** Use a dishpan that will require only half as much water as using the whole sink. Avoid the use of water by dining on paper plates, cups and napkins periodically.
- 3...RECYCLING DRINK BOTTLES:** Drain all drink bottles, do not rinse. A dish rack or the sink will be helpful.
- 4...FROZEN FOOD:** Thaw by using the defrost setting on the microwave. Another quick method is to put food into a bowl of hot (or cold) water for 10-15 minutes. Never run hot (or cold) water over the frozen food. That act may waste up to 15 gallons of water.
- 5...REFRIGERATOR:** Chill pitchers of water daily. Do not drink from the refrigerator dispenser.
- 6...BATHROOM1:** Without rinsing, one can clean a dirty sink, bathtub, mirror, and counter with a window or bathroom cleaner that contains ammonia and a roll of paper towels. No need to use water for cleaning or rinsing.
- 7...BATHROOM2:** If everyone in the U.S. flushed their toilets one less time per day, nearly one billion gallons of water would be saved every day. If you do not have a low-flow toilet, displace water in the tank with a plastic bottle filled with pebbles and water. Secure the bottle's cap.
- 8...BRUSH TEETH:** Use a 6 or 8 oz. cup of water to wet brush, rinse mouth and rinse brush and sink. No need to run the water except to fill the cup. Running water for 1 minute may waste up to 4 gallons of water.
- 9...LAUNDRY:** Wash full loads or set on the size of the load. (Hang clothes outside to dry.)
- 10...RECYCLING LAUNDRY DETERGENT BOTTLES:** Put a cup of water into the bottle, shake well, and pour mix into the washing machine. It produces enough soap for a load of wash. Keep an old towel, on which to drain the bottle, on the dryer or laundry stand. Once drained, the laundry bottle is now clean for recycling. After several bottles have been drained, throw the towel into the washer. It will contain enough soap to wash one more load.
- 11...WINDOWS:** Clean inside and out with a window cleaner and paper towels or rag. A dry newspaper will work also with the added benefit that it won't leave lint.
- 12...PLANTS:** Leftover coffee, tea and ice cubes can be used to water all plants. Instead of pouring everything down the drain, water outside plants with flat sodas and other leftover liquids. Start a rain barrel (a bucket, an old garbage can or a barrel like grandmother once had). As it fills, scoop water from the top. Do not let it stagnate or it could become a breeding ground for mosquitoes.
- 13...CAR WASH: STOP!** Avoid the weekly ritual of car and truck washing. To conserve water at home, fill a 5-gallon bucket with water and soap. Wash the vehicle with the mix in the bucket. Quickly spray rinse with the hose. Buff with old towels. Does your garden hose have a spray nozzle on it to control water flow?
- 14...LAWNS:** Leave grass clippings on the lawn, because they are 80% water and contain 2-4% nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and other nutrients, resulting in healthier turf. Allow grass to grow to three inches and then cut no more than one inch off the top. Follow this "one-third" rule. This helps develop a deeper root system that is a natural defense against weeds, disease and drought. During dry, slow growing periods, cut the lawn every 7 to 10 days. During wet, fast growing periods, cut the lawn every 4 to 7 days.
- 15...PATIO AND DRIVEWAY CLEANING:** Clean patios, driveways, and garages with brooms or vacuum cleaners. Avoid washing with the garden hose.
- 17...GARBAGE DISPOSAL:** Run water at brief intervals or set up a food compost bin in the back yard (Contact the recycling coordinator at 439-4955 x 1510 for instructions.)
- 18...BATHROOM3:** Shower for no more than 5-10 minutes by turning off the shower while shampooing hair. Turn the shower on again to rinse.
- 19...PLANTS AND SHRUBS:** Replace a hose to water plants by using a watering can. Soak the roots directly instead of the surrounding area. Remember to water in the early morning or in the late evening. These times prevent mid-day evaporation.