



Water Conservation Facts:

Outdoors

- ◆ Get sprinklers with regulators to prevent inefficient misting.
- ◆ If you do sprinkle your lawn, be sure to do it in the early morning or evening to reduce evaporation by up to 75%.
- ◆ Practice ‘grasscycling’. Rather than throwing away your lawn’s grass clippings, leave them on your lawn as mulch. This will save time, money and water!
- ◆ A lawn can be dormant (brown) for weeks with minimal to no watering. It is part of the grass’s natural cycle.
- ◆ Check hoses/taps for leaks frequently.
- ◆ Using a broom to sweep sidewalks/driveways instead of using the hose saves about 200L of water...each time!
- ◆ During the summer, about half of all treated water is sprayed onto lawns and gardens.
- ◆ A tap leaking one drop of water per second wastes more than 25 L of water a day! That’s 9,000 L a year!
- ◆ Landscape using native or drought-resistant plants and design gardens to minimize water use.
- ◆ Watering twice a week for less than an hour should be more than enough. Most plants will thrive with far less water than we currently use.

- ◆ Collect rainwater for watering the garden by using a rain barrel or rain harvesting system (see rain barrel construction instructions).
- ◆ Water roots rather than leaves using a drip irrigation system or by hand.
- ◆ Don't water plants if rain is expected in the forecast. Giving plants too much water creates shallow roots that are more susceptible to drought.
- ◆ Avoid watering on windy/hot days as much of the water is lost to evaporation.
- ◆ Adding a few inches of mulch to your gardens keeps your plants' roots cool and moist. Organic mulches (i.e. grass clippings) also release nutrients back into the soil.
- ◆ When mowing the lawn, use a higher setting as longer blades of grass shade the soil and reduce stress on the plant.
- ◆ If you own a pool, be sure to use a pool cover when its not in use. This will cut down on evaporation losses, and will keep it cleaner and warmer. Check equipment such as filtration systems and water inlets on a regular basis for signs of leaks.

Indoors:

- ◆ Keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator, instead of running the tap for a cold glass of water.
- ◆ Turn the tap off when brushing your teeth or shaving.
- ◆ A five-minute shower with a standard showerhead uses 100 L of water. A five-minute shower with a *high efficiency showerhead* uses 35 L of water.
- ◆ Keep showers to 5 minutes or less
- ◆ Replace conventional toilets with low-flow or high-efficiency toilets (see Toilet Rebate/Bathroom Replacement Program for more details).
- ◆ Only turn on dishwashers and clothes washers when they are full to get the most out of every wash cycle.

- ◆ To preserve water quality and the environment, avoid using harsh chemical cleaners; instead, try friendly alternatives such as vinegar or baking soda.
- ◆ Check for leaks around taps and toilets

Do you have any other conservation tips?

If so, send an email to: Dayton.Skei@scrd.ca

Did You Know...

- ◆ In 2004, residential water use accounted for 56% of Municipal water use, followed by Commercial/Industrial use at 31% and 13% through leakage.
- ◆ That water metering lowers average water consumption by an average of 15-30%?
- ◆ In nearly all the world's major religions, water is attributed with important symbolic and ceremonial properties.
- ◆ On average, 35% of household water is used for showers and baths, 30% for toilets, 20% for laundry, 10% for the kitchen and drinking and 5% for cleaning.
- ◆ A single lawn sprinkler spraying 19 litres of water per minute uses more water in just one hour than a combination of ten toilet flushes, two 5-minute showers, two dishwasher loads, and a full load of clothes.