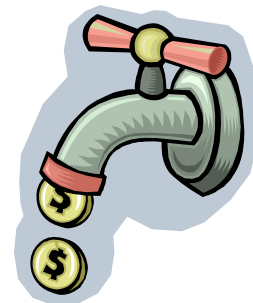


WATER CONSERVATION CHECK LIST



CONSERVATION CHECKLIST

Saving water is like any other habit. The more you do it, the more natural it becomes. Become water-wise, it's fun to find more ways to conserve.

Sometimes a small investment can pay huge dividends. For example, buying a low-flush toilet can save over 18,000 gallons of water a year! It's up to all of us – individuals, business, industry – to save the earth's resources. So remember, wherever you go, take your water-consciousness along. What works at home, works at the office!

IN GENERAL

- Watch for leaks. Pay attention to the **SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS** of plumbing, pool and spa leaks as outlined below. Do a routine indoor/outdoor check every three months.
- Check all faucets for drips. If a drip fills an 8-ounce glass every quarter hour, it will lose about 180 gallons per month. That's 2,160 gallons a year, enough for 30+ showers or baths! Drips can usually be fixed by replacing inexpensive washers or valve seats.
- Install flow restrictors or other conservation devices on all faucets. With these in the shower alone, you can cut your water use from about 5 to 10 gallons per minute to as low as 1.4 to 3 gallons per minute.
- Install faucet aerators on lavatory and kitchen sinks. Faucets with aerators use up to one half the amount of water used by faucets without aerators.

POOLS AND SPAS

- Do regular leak checks-ups. A leak in the pool area can waste 1,000 gallons or more per day. Consult the **SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS** of pool and Spa Leaks previously outlined.
- Pay particular attention to your automatic water filter. If it's faulty, your water bill suffers.
- Keep track of the amount of chemicals you normally use. An increase in quantity used can also be a sign of a leak.
- Use a pool/spa cover to cut down on water loss (and heating costs) caused by evaporation.

IN THE KITCHEN/LAUNDRY

- One of the most common areas for water loss is the kitchen sink area. Check under cupboards once a week for wet spots or bowed cabinetry.
- Keep drinking water in the refrigerator so you don't have to run the tap until the water gets cold enough to drink.
- Only run full loads.

- Scrape food from plates with a utensil, not running water.
- Don't continuously run water in the sink. Hand wash dishes in a sink full of soapy water; Rinse all at once. Soak hard-to clean pans overnight.

IN THE BATHROOM

- Check sinks for drips or leaks once a week.
- Check grout and tiles in shower area. Are any loose?
- Check toilets for leaks. Drop a teaspoon of food coloring into the tank. If the color appears in the bowl after 15 minutes, have the "flapper" valve replaced. If leaks continues, have a professional check your system.
- Decrease the amount of water used per flush. Replace regular or older toilets with new ultra-low flush models or put water displacement devices inside every toilet tank. Make them from plastic water bottles weighted down with pebbles. **DO NOT PUT BRICKS IN YOUR TANK.** They can dissolve and clog siphon jets.

OUTDOORS

- Walk around your property once a week to look for spongy or mushy ground where broken pipes might be hidden.
- Check sprinklers for jammed or malfunctioning heads.
- Use accurate, efficient sprinklers or drip irrigation systems instead of hand watering.
- Water lawns during the coolest times of the day, before 10:00 a.m. or in the evening.
- Deep-soak lawns long enough for water to seep down to the roots, where it is needed. Water deeper and less often.
- Dig basins around individual plants to prevent run-off while watering.
- Put a layer of mulch around trees and plants to slow moisture evaporation.
- Landscape with native plants that take little water.
- Pull weeds as they steal water from desirable plants.
- Sweep driveways, sidewalks and steps with a broom.
- Use a commercial car wash.

