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City of Waseca

Water Conservation Tips

Conserve your water to lower your water bill, to help the environment, and to protect your community water resources.

Saving Water - Around the House

- Kitchen
 - Don't thaw your food in cold water, instead plan ahead and thaw foods in the fridge.
 - Rinse food in a bowl of water rather than under a running tap. Then utilize this water for watering plants.
 - Keep a jug of drinking water in the fridge so that the faucet doesn't need to run every time a drink is needed.
 - Run your dishwasher only if it is full.
 - Minimize how much you rinse your dishes before putting them in the dishwasher.
 - If washing dishes by hand, put a stopper in the sink and fill rather than letting the faucet run.
- Laundry
 - If possible, control the size of the load on a washer to use the correct amount of water.
 - Run your washer only on a full load.
- Bathroom
 - Take baths rather than showers, when possible, as a partially filled tub takes less water than a short shower.
 - Do not run the water when brushing your teeth
 - Do not use your toilet as a trash can - each flush uses 5 - 7 gallons of water.
- Lawn and Yard
 - If watering your lawn, water in the morning when less water is lost to evaporation.
 - If you let your grass grow taller in the summer, water loss will be reduced because the blades will provide shade for the roots.
 - Don't leave sprinklers unattended - use a timer to remind you when to move or turn off the sprinkler.
 - Reduce your usage of high nitrogen fertilizers when possible because they increase the water requirements as the lawn grows more.
 - Add mulch to shrubs and other planted areas because it will help soil hold the moisture for a longer period of time.
 - If landscaping, consider "xeriscaping", a type of landscaping that requires little to no irrigation.
 - One such technique may include using native vegetation, which often do not require watering.

You can also reduce
your water
consumption by
making appliances
and fixtures around
your home more
efficient.



Water Conservation from Efficiency Improvements

EPA WaterSense Fixtures

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) created a program called WaterSense, where products are given a WaterSense label if they meet EPA water efficiency and performance standards.. WaterSense products include toilets, showerheads, faucets, urinals, spray sprinkler bodies, and irrigation controllers. WaterSense products have already saved Americans more than 4.4 trillion gallons of water and more than \$87 billion in water and energy expenses.

Fixing Leaks

Small household leaks can add up to gallons of water lost each day. It is recommended that households check their plumbing and irrigation systems each year to ensure that there are no leaks to repair. One culprit may be your toilet. Put a few drops of food coloring in your toilet tank, and if the color appears in the bowl after no flushing, then there may be a significant leak.

Energy Use

It takes a considerable amount of energy to deliver and treat the water used in your home each day. Homes that use electric water heaters spend nearly 1/4 of their electric bill heating water.

EnergyStar Appliances

Consider EnergyStar when looking for appliances use water. These products reduce both your energy and water consumption. Newer EnergyStar washing machines use 35-50% less water and 50% less energy per load.

