



GATEWAY

On Call. On Time. On Target.

Every Drop Counts!

How Water Conservation Affects You

With the heavy rains the Pittsburgh area sustained in June, it would seem that water conservation should be the last thing on our minds. However, July and August are traditionally the driest months of the year, with the potential for draught always a looming concern. It is during this time of the year, we should be especially mindful of the need to conserve water.

Why Conserve Water?

1. It's the right thing to do. Everyone needs water to survive. We have a moral and social responsibility to share this resource and not waste it. Not only do we need to drink water to sustain our own health and well-being, water is an essential resource for our environment, integral to sustaining our wildlife, and a destination source for recreation opportunities.
2. We have more people, but not more water. Between 1950 and 2000, the U.S. population nearly doubled! Americans now use an average of 100 gallons of water each day – enough to fill 1,600 drinking glasses! This increased usage has put additional demands on water supplies and distribution systems, threatening both human health and the environment.
3. It will save money. The less water you use, the less you have to pay, and the more money you'll have for other things!

How Much Water Are You Using in Your Home?

The industrial and agricultural sectors of the economy demand the most water usage. However, households are still significant users and with the increase in creature comforts that technology has provided and our population boom, water usage has increased. The growing demand for water and increasing population translates into water shortages. In fact, the total demand on the nation's water supply system tripled from 1950 to 1995.

How Can Homeowners Save Water?

In the Kitchen

1. Keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator rather than running the tap until the water gets cold. This way, every drop goes down you and not the drain.
2. When washing dishes by hand, don't let the water run while rinsing. Fill one sink with wash water and the other with rinse water.
3. Use the garbage disposal sparingly. Compost vegetable food waste instead and save gallons every time.
4. Wash your fruits and vegetables in a pan of water instead of running water from the tap.
5. Designate one glass for drinking water each day or refill a water bottle. This will cut down on the number of glasses to wash.



In the Bathroom

1. Shorten your shower by a minute or two and you'll save up to 150 gallons per month.
2. Upgrade older toilets with water efficient models.
3. Use a water efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons per month.
4. Turn off the water while brushing your teeth and save 25 gallons a month. Do the same for while washing your hair and save 150 gallons a month.
5. Consider reusing your towels.

Landscaping

1. Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered, not the house, sidewalk or street.
2. Plant in the fall when conditions are cooler and rainfall is more plentiful.
3. Water your lawn and garden in the morning or evening when temperatures are cooler to minimize evaporation.
4. Spreading a layer of organic mulch around plants retains moisture and saves water, time and money.
5. Use a minimum amount of organic or slow release fertilizer to promote a healthy and draught tolerant landscape.
6. For hanging baskets, planters and pots, place ice cubes under the moss or dirt to give your plants a cool drink of water and help eliminate water overflow.



In the Laundry Room

1. Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
2. When buying new appliances, consider those that offer cycle and load size adjustments. They're more water and energy efficient.
3. When doing laundry, match the water level to the size of the load.
4. Washing dark clothes in cold water saves both on water and energy while it helps your clothes to keep their colors.

General Maintenance

1. Monitor your water bill for unusually high use. Your bill and water meter are tools that can help you discover leaks.
2. We're more likely to notice leaks indoors, but don't forget to check outdoor faucets, sprinklers and hoses for leaks.
3. Know where your water shut-off valve is located. This could save water and prevent damage to your home.
4. Insulate hot water pipes for more immediate hot water at the faucet and for energy savings.
5. Winterize outdoor spigots when temperatures dip below freezing to prevent pipes from leaking or bursting.

Source Material From: www.wateruseitwisely.com,
www.nesc.wvu.edu, and www.epa.gov