

Lawn and Yard

- Morning is the best time to water lawns.
- Let your grass grow to 1 ½ to 2" as the blades will provide shade for the roots.
- Avoid watering when windy or in the heat of the day.
- Don't allow sprinklers to run unattended.
- Aerated lawns absorb water better.
- High nitrogen fertilizers stimulate lawn growth and increase water needs.
- Thatch build-up in a lawn can create a rapid run-off situation. Dead grass should be raked every spring.
- Sprinklers throwing large drops in a flat pattern are more effective than those with fine, high sprays.
- Forget about watering streets, walks and driveways. They don't grow a thing.
- Mulch shrubs and other plantings so the soil holds moisture longer.
- When possible, flood irrigate vegetables and flower gardens rather than using sprinklers. Irrigation allows deeper soaking with less water. Sprinklers result in high evaporation loss of water.

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WATER CONSERVATION TIPS FOR CONSUMERS

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Minnesota Rural Water Association

MRWA Water Conservation Tips for Consumers

Bathroom

Toilets:

- Old fixtures use more water to flush; you can save water per flush in installing a toilet dam.
- Your toilet isn't a wastebasket – don't use it to flush away cigarette butts or Kleenex.
- Put a few drops of food coloring in your tank. If colored water showed in the bowl without flushing, there is a leak and repairs are needed.

Bathing:

- A shower generally uses less water than a bath.
- Do your showering and hair washing in one step.
- Fill the tub only $\frac{1}{4}$ full. This is enough to cover an adult's body or float a child's toy.
- Most showers can be fitted with a flow restrictor or low-volume head to conserve water.
- Don't turn the shower on until you're ready to step in.

Sink:

- Don't leave water running while washing your face, shaving or brushing your teeth.
- An electric razor uses less energy than it takes to heat up the water for razor shaving.

Kitchen

Twenty-five percent of the daily household water use occurs in the kitchen and laundry with much of this water being wasted.

Cooking

- Remove frozen foods from freezer before you're ready to use them so you won't have to use running water to hasten thawing.
- Always use lids on pots and pans.
- Use the smallest amount of water possible in cooking to save both water and nutrients.
- Don't let the faucet run for a cold drink. Keep a jug of water cooling in the refrigerator.

Washing Dishes

- When washing dishes by hand, don't rinse with running water.
- Adding $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of vinegar to wash water cuts grease more readily than hot water alone.
- Run your dishwasher only when you have a full load.
- Use prewash, rinse-hold and scrub cycles of your dishwasher only when necessary.

Laundry

- If your washer has a variable load control, always adjust water levels to fit the size of the load. This saves both water and the energy needed to heat the extra hot water.
- Run your washer when you have a full load.
- Remember that in soft water clothes get cleaner and require less detergent and less rinse water.
- When buying a new washing machine, look for models with water or energy-saving controls.

All Around the House

- Check every faucet for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 – 20 gallons a day.
- Use a broom, not the hose, to clean the garage, sidewalks and driveway.
- Insulate the hot water heater. Avoid buying a larger tank than is necessary for your needs.