



WILDWOOD

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In discussions held with the Department of Natural Resources, **water conservation** has been identified as the most cost-effective and environmentally sound way to reduce the demand on our water supply and the aquifer that provides this resource. Below are just a few things you can do in your household that will make a difference in groundwater use and promote conservation of this very important resource:

Outdoor

1. Avoid over-watering your lawn. A heavy rain eliminates the need for watering for up to two (2) weeks. To determine if your lawn needs watering, step on your grass, if it springs back when you lift your foot, it doesn't need water. If watering is necessary, water your yard between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. to reduce evaporation and interference from wind. If installing irrigation devices, install types that are the most water efficient, such as micro and drip irrigation and soaker hoses.
2. Avoid over fertilizing your lawn. Applying fertilizer increases the need for water.
3. Consider planting grasses and shrubs that need less water (drought-tolerant species). Please contact your local nursery or greenhouse for assistance with identifying appropriate plantings for your property. Additional information is also available on the worldwide web.
4. Stop running the hose while washing your car. Use a shut-off nozzle for your hose that can be adjusted to a fine spray.
5. Use a broom or blower to clean driveways and patios instead of a hose.
6. Place a layer of mulch around trees and plants. Chunks of bark, peat moss, or gravel slows down evaporation.
7. Use a pool cover to cut down on evaporation, if you have such a facility.

Indoor

1. Recycle waste water and don't pour water down the drain, when there may be another use for it, i.e. water your indoor plants or garden.
2. Turn off water while brushing your teeth, washing your face, or shaving.
3. Shorten your showers by one (1) or two (2) minutes. You can also install water-saving shower heads or flow restrictors too.
4. Avoid pre-rinsing pots, dishes, and glasses that are to be placed in the dishwasher for cleaning.
5. Fix leaky faucets and plumbing joints.
6. Retrofit all household faucets by installing aerators, with flow restrictors.
7. Wash only full loads in the washing machine and dishwasher.
8. Avoid flushing the toilet unnecessarily. Dispose of tissues or other similar waste in trash receptacles, rather than the toilet.
9. Replace older toilets with low-volume models.
10. Install a toilet displacement device to cut down on the amount of water needed to flush. Place a one-gallon plastic jug of water into the tank to displace toilet flow (do not use a brick, it may dissolve and loose pieces may cause damage to the internal parts). Be sure installation does not interfere with the operational parts.

If every household were to implement these types of water saving steps, the demand on our water resources would be lessened. It is everyone's responsibility to maintain our water resource. Please be a good neighbor and, remember, every drop counts!

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