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Water Conservation Tips

Here are a number of ways you can reduce water use at your home

- Rethink lawn watering. It uses a lot of water and it takes a lot of effort to move the sprinkler around. Our grasses here may turn brown during a dry spell, but they always seem to come back when it rains!
- Fix those leaky faucets. That constant drip is more than just annoying; it's also a huge waste of water. You can lose more than 20 gallons of water a day from a single drippy faucet!
- Install low-flow faucet aerators in your sinks - you can save gallons of water each time you use the tap. Conventional faucets flow as high as 3 gallons per minute, but low-flow faucets flow at 1.5 gallons per minute.
- When hand-washing dishes, never run water continuously. Wash dishes in a partially filled sink and then rinse them using the spray attachment on your tap.
- If you have an electric dishwasher, use it only to wash full loads, and use the shortest cycle possible. Many dishwashers have a conserve/water-miser cycle.
- Wash only full loads in your washing machine.
- Use the shortest cycle possible for washing clothes, and use the "suds-saver" feature if your machine has one.
- Install a low-flow showerhead. It may cost you some money up front, but your water conservation efforts will save you money down the road. Conventional showerheads flow at 5 gallons per minute or more, whereas low-flow showerheads typically flow at 2.5 gallons per minute (or less!).
- Spend less time in the shower.
- Think of baths as an occasional treat and stick to showers. The average bath uses 35 to 50 gallons of water, whereas a 10-minute shower with a low-flow showerhead only uses 25 gallons.
- Turn off the water while you brush your teeth and shave.
- Get a low-flow toilet. Flushing is the biggest water hog in the house. Older, conventional toilets can use 5 to 7 gallons per flush, but low-flow models use as little as 1.6 gallons. Since the average person flushes five times a day, the gallons can really add up.

- If you can't replace your higher volume toilet, put a plastic bottle filled with water in your toilet tank to reduce the amount of water used per flush.
- To check for a toilet leak, put dye or food coloring into the tank. If color appears in the bowl without flushing, there's a leak that should be repaired.
- "If it's yellow, let it mellow." The saying may be cliché, but it's good advice. If you're grossed-out by the "yellow," just put the toilet lid down.

On average, each household uses about 180 gallons of water per day. If each household could reduce water use by just 10 gallons per day, the association could save close to \$5000 in water costs per year.

Let's all do our best to reduce water use!