

Home Conservation Tips

The average household in Waconia consumes 5,000 gallons of water/month. While everyone's habits are different, little adjustments to your daily routines can add up and make a big impact on your water bill. Appliances and Energy Star do their part, but here are some ways you can conserve water!



Kitchen

- Don't let the **water run** when hand washing **dishes**.
- Dishwashers typically **use less** water than hand washing.
- **Use** your garbage disposable **sparingly**.
- Don't use **running water** to defrost food, **thaw** in the fridge.
- **Reuse** leftover **water** from cooking or rinsing for **watering plants**.
- Cook food in as **little water as possible** and prepare in the appropriate size pan.
- **Heat water** on the stove instead of letting the **water run** until its hot.

Bathroom

- **Shorten** your shower **time**. Even 1 minute could save 150 gallons/month.
- Toilet leaks can be **silent**. Test for leaks at least **once a year**.
- One **drip** can add up to 5 gallons/day, check your faucets/**showerheads**.
- Plug the sink **instead** of running the water to **rinse** your razor.
- **Don't** use your toilet as a **wastebasket!** It not only wastes water, but infrastructure is not designed to carry trash.
- Typically, a shower **uses less** water than a bath.

General

- Be a **water-use** detective! **Check** hoses, faucets, fixtures **regularly!**
- Use your **water meter** to check and detect leaks! There are instructions and details on how to use your meter for **leak detection** in the utility billing section of waconia.org.
- **Match** washing machine water **level** to the **size** of the load.
- When washing your hands, turn **off** the water while you **lather**. This can save up to **150 gallons** a month!
- **Leaks** add up. Fix them immediately or **turn water off** to the fixture until it can be fixed.
- **Winterize** outdoor water **spigots** to prevent pipe leaks or bursts and to avoid **unintentional water use**.
- Get your **kids involved!** Talk to them about the **importance** of water and how to avoid wasting it!

Irrigation

Irrigation has a lot of components. Make sure you know how your system works. See previous Hot Topics for more details on irrigation and we will be focusing on irrigation efficiency in future months! For now, here are a few items:

- Have a **qualified professional** install/service your irrigation system.
- **Adjust** your mower height to 1.5-2.0 inches. **Tall grass** shades the roots and hold **moisture** longer.
- City Ordinances do allow irrigating on an **odd/even day** schedule however, a lot of the time every-other day watering is too **much** for lawns, especially in the spring!!



Visit waconia.org for City Ordinances and more Hot Topics.