

Water conservation is all about individual actions adding up to make a difference. When we realize the true value of water, it is easy to see why we should not waste it. There are many simple changes we can make to reduce the amount of water we use every day.

Ways to Conserve Water

In The Bathroom

- Repair leaky faucets and always turn off your taps tightly so they don't drip; even a small drip can waste tons of water.
- Use a faucet aerator and a water-flow reducer attachment.
- Turn off the water while brushing your teeth or washing your hands.
- Have showers instead of baths, and keep them short (5 minutes).
- Install low-flow showerheads.
- Put the stopper in the tub before you turn on the water for a bath. The cold water that comes out first will mix with the hot water later.
- Don't overfill the tub for a bath. Use only about 5 inches of water or less.
- Repair any toilet tank, bowl or base leaks. You can check the tank for leaks by adding food coloring to the water tank and observing whether it spreads to the bowl without flushing.
- Never flush garbage of any kind down the toilet.
- Install a low-flush toilet (that uses 6 litres or less per flush), or place a toilet insert or weighted plastic bottle filled with water in the water tank.

In The Kitchen

- Repair leaky faucets and always turn off your taps tightly so they don't drip; even a small drip can waste tons of water.
- Use a faucet aerator and a water-flow reducer attachment.
- Don't run the water continuously while thawing food, hand washing dishes or while washing fruits and veggies; use a partially filled sink instead with a quick rinse afterward.
- Keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator, instead of running the tap for a cold glass of water.

In The Laundry Room

- Wash full loads and use the shortest cycle.
- Adjust the water level and use cold or warm water instead of hot.
- Use environmentally friendly (low or no phosphate and biodegradable) detergents.
- Repair any leaks around the washer taps and hoses.
- Don't put clothes in the wash until they're actually dirty. It's okay to wear pants and shirts more than once before washing if they're not dirty.

In The Yard & Garden

- Check outside hoses, faucets and sprinklers for leaks; even a small drip can waste tons of water.
- Collect rainwater from the eaves of your house in a large garbage pail or rain barrel. Make your own rain barrel!
- If you water your lawn, do it in the cool morning to avoid evaporation and be careful not to water the pavement.
- Do not water your lawn on windy days and do not turn on sprinklers for the entire day.
- Use a rain gauge (or simply a can) to measure natural rainfall and your lawn watering. Lawns can stay healthy with only 2 - 5 cm of water per week.
- Keep your grass about 6 cm long because taller grass holds water better.
- Plant trees, shrubs, herbs and flowers that are native and generally require less care and water.
- Water the roots not the leaves and use compost and mulch.
- Consider replacing grass with drought-resistant plants—the more plants the better, as vegetation reduces run-off.
- Clean sidewalks and driveways with a broom, not with water from a hose; using a broom instead of the hose saves about 200L of water each time!

Cars & Bikes:

- Use a bucket of water to wash your bike or car, then rinse quickly using a trigger nozzle on your hose.
- Wash the family car over grass or gravel to prevent any soapy runoff from going directly into the sewers.

Sewer Grates:

- Never throw garbage, oil or chemicals down your toilets, sink drains, the storm drain or onto the ground. Improper disposal leads to contamination of our local creeks, streams, lakes and soil. Take your hazardous waste to your local waste management facility.
- Paint yellow fish on storm drains, to remind everyone that what goes down our drains ends up in our water systems.