

Town of Somerset Water Department

Water Conservation Tips

Helpful tips to promote water conservation and water reuse and save money!

Outdoor tips

Water grass only when needed. To check step on the grass, if it springs back when you lift your foot, it doesn't need watering. You can also feel the soil or purchase a soil moisture meter to determine if watering is needed.

Water early in the morning. Otherwise, much of the water will simply evaporate between the sprinkler and the grass. Avoid watering during the peak water consumption hours which are between 4p.m. - 9 p.m.

Use a sprinkler that produces large drops of water rather than a fine mist, and sends the droplets out on a low angle, to avoid evaporation.

Water slowly for better absorption, and never water on windy days.

Do not over water. Soil can absorb only so much water, and the rest simply runs off. One to one and a half inches applied once per week will keep most grasses alive and healthy.

Do not scalp lawns when mowing during hot weather. Taller grass holds moisture better. A better looking lawn will be obtained if grass is mowed often, so that only $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch of grass is cut off.

Use a watering can or hand held hose in small areas of the lawn that may require more frequent watering, (such as areas near walks or driveways or in especially hot, sunny spots). Forget about watering the streets, sidewalks or driveways, they will never grow a thing.

Remember to adjust your irrigation schedule to accommodate changes in seasonal water demand and weather conditions.

Use layers of mulch around plants and shrubs which will reduce evaporation and promote plant growth. Water retaining basins or rings also allow water to be concentrated around plants or shrubs.

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Indoor tips

Check your toilet periodically for leaks. Place a few drops of food coloring in the tank. After a few minutes, if you see color in the bowl, you have a leak, this is usually caused by a faulty flapper valve. If your toilet continues to fill and doesn't stop, the fill valve needs to be adjusted or replaced.

Fill a plastic one liter bottle with sand and water and place it in the toilet tank away from the fill mechanism. This device will not affect the efficiency of most toilets and can save 5 or more gallons per day per family of four. Do not use a brick to displace water in your toilet tank because they will break down over time, and cause problems.

Replace standard shower heads with low volume heads or flow restrictors and limit the time in the shower to 5 minutes. This will save approximately 75 gallons per week per person.

Do not let the water run while shaving or brushing your teeth. By simply not letting the water run you can save 35 gallons per week per person.

Instead of rinsing fruit or vegetables under running water fill a pan and clean the fruit or vegetables, then use this water on your plants either inside or outdoors.

Repair all leaking or dripping faucets in your home to save up to 150 gallons or more per week per leak. (Read your meter before and after a two hour or longer period when no water is being used in your home. If the meter read is not exactly the same, there is a leak.)

Run your dishwasher only when full. Do the same with the clothes washer do not wash less than a full load of laundry. The average dishwasher uses about 17 gallons of water per wash cycle, the average clothes washer uses about 50 gallons of water per load.

Instead of running the faucet to get a cold drink, keep a container of water in the refrigerator.

Do your part to use water wisely conserving water not only saves money it also insures an adequate water supply for ourselves and future generations.