

We have gathered information from the Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of the Interior: U.S. Geological Survey, the American Water Works Association, and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. We have condensed this information into a series of useful tips and ideas to help you conserve water in and around your home.

Only 1% of the planet's water supply is available for human consumption! One person uses an average of 100 gallons of water per day and an average household of four uses 12,000 gallons per month.

### IN THE BATHROOM...



Over half of all residential water used takes place in the bathroom.

#### Ways to Conserve:

- Take a five-minute shower instead of a bath. You can save 20-30 gallons of water per shower vs. a bath.
- When brushing your teeth use a glass full of water to rinse with instead of running the faucet the whole time. You can save 3 gallons of water per brushing.
- When shaving fill the sink half full to rinse your razor with instead of running the faucet full time. You can save 5 gallons of water per shave.
- Older toilets installed prior to 1994 use 3½ to 7 gallons of water per flush. Fill a one-liter bottle with water and place it in the toilet tank. You could save as much as 20 gallons of water per day.
- Install aerators in your faucets. They reduce water flow by 75% with no noticeable loss in water stream and they save 4 gallons of water per minute.
- Clean your greasy hands with a waterless cleaner before lathering up with soap and water. You can save 3-5 gallons of water per wash.

- When taking a bath, don't run the water without closing the drain first. The follow-on hot water will warm that first cold burst of water.
- Don't use toilets as a wastebasket. Using a wastebasket instead of the toilet for tissues and other bits of trash can save 12 gallons of water a day.

Here's a sobering thought. City officials estimate that nearly 20% of all toilets in every city across the entire nation leak! That's one in every five toilets that leak!

A small drip or invisible leak in a toilet can waste 15 gallons of water a day. A toilet you can hear running can waste 1000 gallons of water a day.

To check a toilet for a tank to bowl leak simply remove the tank cover and put 5 to 10 drops of food coloring into the tank water, do not flush, wait 10 to 15 minutes. If you see food coloring in the bowl, your toilet is leaking. Repair it immediately.

### IN THE KITCHEN...



Most water usage in the kitchen is not by an appliance. Running the faucet to either cool or heat the water temperature before use wastes water.

#### Ways to Conserve:

- Keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator instead of running the faucet until the water temperature cools. You can save 2 gallons of water per drink.
- When washing dishes by hand, fill the sink with soap and water instead of running the water over the dishes the whole time. Running the water throughout the entire wash can waste up to 25 gallons of water.
- Thaw frozen foods in the refrigerator or a microwave. Do not thaw these items by placing them under a running faucet. You can save 5 or more gallons of water per meal.

- Start a compost pile as an alternative to using the kitchen sink garbage disposal. You can save 1 or 2 gallons of water per disposal cycle.
- Clean vegetables using water in a pan and a vegetable brush rather than letting the faucet run needlessly.
- If you use a dishwasher make sure you fill it with dishes. It uses the same amount of water whether it is full or partially full of dishes. Many dishwashers have a water saver cycle. USE IT!
- Scrape rather than rinse dishes before loading into the dishwasher.

### IN THE LAUNDRY...



It takes approximately 35-50 gallons of water to wash one large load of clothes. A front load washing machine uses 1/3 less water than a top-loading machine.

There are several simple guidelines to follow when washing clothes:

- Use the minimum recommended quantity of detergent.
- Pre-soak especially soiled clothing.
- Always try to wash a full load of clothes.

If you must wash smaller loads of clothes ensure to set the proper water setting to match the size of the load.

If your washer has a "water saver" setting, USE IT!

### WHEN WASHING YOUR CAR...



Washing your car at a commercial carwash that recycles its wash water uses 2/3 less water than you would by washing your car at home. Home washes use approximately 150 gallons of water per wash if you don't use a hose with an automatic shut off nozzle.

If you wash your car at home, wet your car once quickly with the hose before you begin washing. Use a bucket of soapy water. Wash one quadrant of the car, rinse quickly. Repeat as necessary. Always use a nozzle on your hose that can shut off the water flow between rinses.

### IN YOUR YARD...



A single lawn sprinkler spraying five gallons of water per minute uses 50% more water in just one hour than a combination of 10 toilet flushes, 2 five minute

showers, 2 dishwasher loads, and a full load of clothes in the washer!

#### Ways to Conserve:

Don't over water lawns or plants. In Tennessee, as a general rule, water every 5 to 7 days during the summer if needed.

Some simple methods to determine if it's time to water:

- Use a soil moisture indicator. Water only when the probe shows dry soil.
- Use a screwdriver; if it is difficult to push into the soil, it's time to water.
- When you do water set a kitchen timer. A lot of water can be wasted in a short period of time if you forget to turn off your sprinkler.
- Water your lawn during the early morning or early evening hours when temperatures and winds are lower. This reduces the amount of water you lose through evaporation. 30% of your water can be lost to evaporation by watering the lawn during midday.
- Water your lawn in several short sessions rather than one long one. For example, three ten minute sessions spaced 30 minutes to an hour apart will allow your lawn to better absorb moisture than one straight 30 minute session.
- Position your sprinkler to water only the lawn or your garden, not the sidewalks, streets or driveways. Pavement won't grow.

- Avoid sprinklers that spray a fine mist. This only increases evaporation.
- Stop or at least interrupt watering when puddles or runoff occurs. This allows the water time to penetrate the soil before you resume watering.
- Raise your lawn mower cutting height - longer grass blades help shade each other, cut down on evaporation, inhibit weed growth, and improves the soils' ability to retain water.
- Aerate your lawn each spring and fall. This step will also help soil retain water.
- Mow as infrequently as possible. Mowing puts grass under stress that in turn triggers the need for more water.
- Don't over fertilize. Fertilizer applications require additional watering.
- Most plants only require one inch of water a week. If it has rained during the week the plants do not need to be watered.
- Landscape with drought resistant trees and shrubs.
- Rock, gravel, benches, and decks can be used to create a decorative yard while cutting down the size of the area to be watered.
- Consider drip irrigation systems around trees and shrubs. These systems will also cut down loss through evaporation.
- In times of drought accept a less than lush lawn. Grass will naturally go dormant during periods of drought but will readily regenerate when water becomes available.
- Reduce traffic on stressed lawns.
- Place a layer of mulch around trees and plants to retain more water.
- Wash your car on the lawn. The soapy water will not hurt your grass.
- Don't use the sprinkler just to cool off or for play. Running through water from a hose or sprinkler is fun but wastes gallons of water. An average lawn sprinkler puts out about 220 gallons of water per hour.
- Know how to turn off an automatic watering system when it rains or add a rain sensor.
- Always use a nozzle on garden hoses that shuts off when not in use.

- Always turn off outdoor faucets when not in use.

### HELPFUL HINTS ON MAINTENANCE AND HOME IMPROVEMENTS THAT PROMOTE WATER CONSERVATION

Check all faucets, pipes, and toilets periodically for leaks. Quickly repair or replace leaking faucets, toilets, cracked pipes, storage containers, and worn out hoses. To check for leaking pipes, listen for the sound of running water, or look for unexplained ponding of water near property pipelines. Close all water outlets and check your water meter. Take a reading on your water meter, wait for about 30 minutes and take a second reading. If the dial has moved you have a leak.

Another way to confirm your suspicions is to look at the bottom of your gas and water bill. It shows you a comparison of last month and current month usage. If there is a large discrepancy, contact the Clarksville Gas and Water Department immediately, 645-7400.

- Insulate your hot water pipes. Less water will be wasted before hot water flows.
- Hold a bucket underneath your showerhead for 20 seconds. If more than one gallon accumulates, you need a water efficient-shower-head.
- Don't waste water hosing down your dirty driveway or sidewalk. Use a broom or a leaf blower. You save 25 gallons of water for every five minutes you're not using the hose.
- Cover your swimming pool. Covering your pool will help reduce evaporation by 90%. Left uncovered, the average sized pool will evaporate about 1000 gallons of water per month.
- Lower pool water level to reduce the amount of water splashed out.
- Recycle water from your fish tank by using it to water plants. Fish emulsion is a good and inexpensive fertilizer.
- Look for low-flow or WaterSense labels when purchasing new appliances. Also, choose

appliances offering several different cycles. New high efficiency models will use an average of 30% less water and 40-50% less energy.



Consider employing rain barrels around your house that catch rainwater from your downspout. It provides a FREE source of chemically untreated water for flowers and plants and compost piles. A formula to remember: 1 inch of rain on a 1000 sq ft roof yields 623 gallons of water. You can calculate the yield of your roof by multiplying the square footage of your roof by 623 and divide by 1000. Remember, after the cost of the barrels, (average: \$100), THE WATER IS FREE.

Be a good citizen. When you see leaks in fire hydrants or other public facilities, report it so it can be repaired, by calling 645-7400.

### JUST A THOUGHT...

One person can make a difference. If you saved just 10 gallons of water a day, in a year's time you would save 3,650 gallons of water...If everyone in Clarksville did that, we'd save 36 and half million gallons of water a year.

### *Please think about it!*

The data furnished for water consumption and water measures are based on the performance characteristics of typical plumbing fixtures and average household use. Individual conservation success will depend on such factors as brand names, water pressure, size of bathtub, time spent showering, shaving, etc.

The essential point is most consumers can get by with far less water than they are currently using, resulting in reduced water and sewer fees as well as helping to preserve one of the world's most vital resources.



*We all must do more...about using less.*

## WATER CONSERVATION

### "HELPFUL TIPS"



2215 Madison Street • Clarksville, Tennessee 37043  
(931) 645-7400 • [www.clarksvillegw.com](http://www.clarksvillegw.com)

*At the Clarksville Gas & Water Department we pledge to the citizens of Clarksville to provide the highest quality utility services and products with a commitment to our customers, ensuring safety, competitive rates and environmental excellence. We believe in and are committed to customer satisfaction.*