



water conservation tips

GENERAL

- Watch for leaks. Do a routine indoor/outdoor check every three months, or call professionals to do one for you.
- Check all faucets for drips. If a drip fills an 8-ounce glass every quarter hour, it will lose about 180 gallons per month. That's 2,160 gallons a year, enough for 30+ showers or baths! Drips can usually be fixed by replacing inexpensive washers or valve seats.
- Install flow restrictors (aerators) or other conservation devices on all faucets.
- Change out high flow shower heads with newer low flow models. With these you can cut your water use from about 5 to 10 gallons per minute to as low as 1.4 to 3 gallons per minute.
- Wrap exposed indoor and outdoor pipes to prevent breakage in freezing weather.

POOLS AND SPAS

- Do regular leak checks-ups. A leak in the pool area can waste 1,000 gallons or more per day.
- Pay particular attention to your automatic water filler. If it's faulty, your water bill suffers.
- Keep track of the amount of chemicals you normally use. An increase in quantity can also be a sign of a leak.
- Use a pool/spa cover to cut down on water loss (and heating costs) caused by evaporation. Evaporation in swimming pools can be as high as 3" weekly in the hottest part of the summer or about 700 gallons for 15'X25' swimming pool.
- Use the pool leak check method on this page to help determine if you have a leak.

KITCHEN / LAUNDRY

- One of the most common areas for water loss is the kitchen sink area.
- Check under cupboards once a month for wet spots or bowed cabinetry.
- Keep drinking water in the refrigerator so you don't have to run the tap until the water gets cold enough to drink.
- Only run full loads in your dishwasher.
- Scrape food from plates with a utensil, not running water.
- Don't continuously run water in the sink. Hand wash dishes in a sink full of soapy water; rinse all at once. Soak hard-to clean pans overnight.

BATHROOM

- Check sinks for drips or leaks once a week.
- Check grout and tiles in shower area. Are any loose? Is grout missing, allowing water to flow beneath the tiles?
- Check toilets for leaks. Drop a teaspoon of food coloring into the tank. If the color appears in the bowl after 15 minutes, have the "flapper" valve replaced.
- If leaks continue, have a professional check your system. Decrease the amount of water used per flush.
- Replace regular or older toilets with new ultra-low flush models.

OUTDOORS

- Walk around your property once a week to look for spongy or mushy ground where broken pipes might be hidden.
- Check sprinklers for plugged or malfunctioning heads.
- Water lawns during the coolest times of the day. Irrigate after 8:00 pm and be finished by 8:00 a.m.
- Water deeper and less often.
- Put a layer of mulch around trees and plants to slow moisture evaporation.
- Landscape with native plants that take little water.
- Sweep in stead of washing driveways, sidewalks and steps.

OTHER CONSERVATION TIPS

- Replace old appliances with newer, more efficient, energy-saving models.
- Close fireplace dampers in the summer.
- Close doors to unused rooms.
- Keep draperies and window coverings closed during the day.
- Turn off lights when not in use.

Make your move today toward wiser use of our resources. When it comes to conservation, every effort helps. Check out what you can do; then make it a habit!



Lake Oswego

management for a sustainable future