WATER-SAVING TIPS FOR RESIDENTS

Be water-wise and save money on your utility bill. *Chances are your household could be using more water than necessary for comfort. Flowing freely from pipes and taps, water seems an endlessly convenient resource. However, the fact is too much water goes-down-the-drain, and out-of-your pocket.* ***In the course of a single day, a family of four consumes an average of 400 gallons of water****—and that excludes outdoor usage.*

Through a combination of improved usage practices and water saving devices, ***a family could save 100 gallons of water per day*** *or 6,000 gallons of water per average 60 day billing cycle. At current 2022 utility rates,* ***this means a savings of about $78 per*** *bill in water and sewer charges.*

Regularly review your water bill to determine your ***average daily water usage****. Divide your water usage by the number of days in the billing period, and multiply by 1000. Then divide your answer by the number of residents in your household. For example, if your usage reads* ***15*** *for* ***62 days****: Divide 15 by 62 days and multiply by 1000; this gives you approximately 242 gallons of water usage per day. Next, divide 242 gallons by the number of people in your household—let's use 4 people for this calculation. The result is about* ***60.5 gallons*** *of average water usage per person per day over the billing period.*

Awareness of your water usage is the first step in water conservation and, ***water conservation saves you money!***

SAVING WATER INDOORS

1. Find another use for cooking or wastewater like watering a plant or garden for example.
2. Letting the water run for just three minutes while washing, shaving, or brushing your teeth will waste about 10 gallons of clean water. Don't let water run needlessly while doing these everyday tasks. Use of cup or glass of water for rinsing during shaving and when brushing your teeth.
3. Verify that your home is leak-free because many homes have hidden water leaks. Read your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter does not read exactly the same, there is a leak.
4. Repair dripping faucets by replacing washers. If your faucet is dripping at the rate of one drop per second, you can expect to waste 2,700 gallons per year which will add to the cost of water and sewer utilities.
5. Check for toilet tank leaks by adding food coloring to the tank. If the toilet is leaking, color will appear in the bowl in approximately 30 minutes or the color in the tank will get lighter. Check the toilet for worn out, corroded or bent parts. Most replacement parts are inexpensive, readily available, and easily installed. (Flush as soon as test is done since food coloring may stain tank.)
6. If the toilet flush handle frequently sticks in the flush position, letting water run constantly, replace or adjust it.
7. Avoid flushing the toilet unnecessarily. Dispose of tissues, insects and other such waste in the trash rather than the toilet.

8. Use the minimum amount of water needed for a bath by closing the drain first and filling the tub only 1/3 full.
9. Take short showers instead of tub baths. If your shower has a single-handle control or shut off valve, turn off the flow while soaping or shampooing.
10. Replace your showerhead with an ultra-low-flow version.
11. Retrofit all wasteful household faucets by installing aerators with flow restrictors.
12. Operate automatic dishwashers and clothes washers only when they are fully loaded or properly set the water level for the size of load you are using.
13. When washing dishes by hand, fill one sink or basin with soapy water. Quickly rinse under a slow-moving stream from the faucet.
14. Operate your dishwasher only when the unit if fully loaded.
15. Use the proper water level or load size selection when using your washing machine.
16. Store drinking water in the refrigerator rather than letting the tap run every time you want a cool glass of water.
17. Do not use running water to thaw meat or other frozen foods. Defrost food overnight in the refrigerator or by using the defrost setting on your microwave.
18. Insulate your water pipes. You'll get hot water faster plus avoid wasting water while it heats up.
19. When purchasing new water-using appliances (e.g., dishwashers), always consider the unit's water consumption in addition to its energy efficiency. Most manufacturers now provide this information to consumers.

SAVING WATER OUTDOORS

1. Follow water sprinkler restrictions when in effect.
2. Don't over water your lawn. As a general rule, lawns only need watering every 5 days in hot summer weather. A hearty rain eliminates the need for watering for as long as two weeks in some instances.
3. Water lawns during the early morning hours when temperatures and wind speed are the lowest. This reduces losses from evaporation.
4. Don't water your street, driveway, or sidewalk. Position your sprinklers so that your water lands on the lawn and shrubs ... not the paved areas.
5. Regularly check sprinkler system heads and timing devices to be sure they are operating properly.
6. Install a rain sensor device or switch which will override the irrigation cycle of the sprinkler system when adequate rainfall has occurred.
7. Consider raising the lawn mower blade to at least three inches. A lawn cut higher encourages grass roots to grow deeper, shades the root system and holds soil moisture better than a closely clipped lawn.
8. Avoid over fertilizing your lawn. The application of fertilizers increases the need for water. Apply fertilizers which contain slow-release, water-insoluble forms of nitrogen.
9. Mulch to retain moisture in the soil. Mulching also helps to control weeds that compete with plants for water.
10. Plant native and/or drought-tolerant grasses, ground covers, shrubs, and trees. Once established, they do not need to be watered as frequently and they usually

will survive a dry period without any watering. Group plants together based on similar water needs.

11. Do not hose down your driveway or sidewalk. Use a broom to clean leaves and other debris from these areas. Using a hose to clean a driveway can waste hundreds of gallons of water.
12. Outfit your hose with a shut-off nozzle which can be adjusted down to fine spray so that water flows only as needed. When finished, "Turn it off" at the spigot instead of at the nozzle to avoid leaks.
13. Use hose washers between spigots and water hoses to eliminate leaks.
14. Do not leave sprinklers or hoses unattended. Your garden hoses can pour out 300 gallons or more in an hour, so don't leave the sprinkler running all day; it will cost you if left on for just 12 hours. Use a kitchen timer to remind yourself to turn it off.
15. Check all hoses, connectors, and spigots regularly.
16. Avoid the installation of ornamental water features (such as fountains) unless the water is recycled.
17. If you have a swimming pool, consider a water-saving pool filter. A single backflushing with a traditional filter uses from l80 to 250 gallons or more of water.
18. Report all significant water losses (e.g., broken pipes, open hydrants, errant sprinklers) to the Village.