



For Immediate Release

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Water Conservation at Home—Do Your Share!

As water issues continue to hit the front page, the conservation message continues to be spread. It's easy to look at the issues in the newspaper and think they don't really have much to do with me. There isn't anything I can do to change that. But we all use water and this issue has a lot to do with each one of us.

Everyone can help with this problem by conserving water in the home. Outdoor water use is only an issue a few months out of the year. Indoor water use is 365 days a year. A great way to start is by checking for leaks and repairing any that are found. Sinks are easy to see if they are leaking, but what about the toilet? You should regularly check your toilet for leaks, because they are not easily seen and can lead to large quantities of water being wasted. One method to check for leaks is to place some food coloring in the tank of the toilet. If the color appears in the bowl of the toilet without being flushed—there is a leak. (be sure not to leave the dye in the tank more than 15 minutes or it may stain) Also, look into the tank to be sure water is not constantly flowing down the overflow pipe. A leaking toilet can waste thousands of gallons of clean water and can cost you \$30 or more on your water bill. That's worth checking into!

As appliances age, be sure to keep energy and water use in mind when you shop for replacements. Look for the EnergyStar label when appliance shopping, because energy efficient models will save you money in the long run. New front loading washing machines use a fraction of the water that top loaders do. Even the new low flow toilets can make a huge difference. Thanks to modern engineering, new models now flush just as well as old water hungry toilet. You can even go to a dual flush system that uses even less water.

Another easy way to save water is to install sink aerators and low-flow shower heads. And try to use them less too! Shorter showers and turning off sinks while brushing teeth will save many gallons of water. Collect the water that runs while you're waiting for hot water and use it to water plants. Wash only full loads in both the clothes washer and the dish washer. There are more ways to save water than we have room to print. Be creative and make it fun! A household contest to see who can take the shortest shower will be more successful than banging on the bathroom door and yelling about the turning the water off! Involving everyone in water conservation will pay off for our future generations as well. So come on and do your share!

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