

Tips: How to Be Water Wise



Our water is a valuable resource. Very little of the earth's water is fresh and available for drinking. Our water comes from protected mountain watersheds. Keep our great water for things we need like drinking and cleaning, and try not to waste it by overwatering lawns or leaving taps running.

Home Water Use

In this region we use about 340 litres of water per household each day, similar to the Canadian average. The major use of water inside our homes, up to a third, is from flushing the toilet.

Use less

Avoid running taps to wait for water to cool (keep a jug of water in the fridge).

When ready to replace appliances choose low flow toilets and energy efficient washing machines and dishwashers (which also use less water). About a third of our household water use is for flushing the toilet. Older toilets use up to 12 litres per flush—that's equal to six two-litre milk cartons. On the other hand, modern low-flow toilets use about half, only 6 litres a flush. Check for leaks in your toilet. Put a few drops of food colouring in the tank. If it shows up in the bowl, your toilet is leaking water.

Water-wise Gardening

Does your garden hose connection leak? Would a new washer help? Leaking faucets lose lots of water: 280 litres/week for a slow drip; 750 litres/week for a fast drip; and 3,700 litres/week for a steady stream, such as a broken pipe—the equivalent of filling an extra 50 baths a week.

Use a spray nozzle with automatic shut-off when watering plants.

Do Your Part

Only use the toilet for toilet paper, and not as a garbage can. That way you are flushing less often.

When you are ready to replace your washing machine, choose a high-efficiency model. You'll save both water and energy. A traditional clothes washer uses 150-plus litres of water for each load. A high-efficiency machine reduces this by more than half—to about 75 litres a load.

Turn off the tap when you are brushing your teeth or when washing dishes by hand.

Sweep your driveway, stairs or sun deck instead of using the garden hose.

Turn on to use the outside water taps for only as long as needed. Do not turn on the outside water taps and allow them to run all day.

Follow the local water restrictions...do your part in helping conserve our valuable water supply.

