

Green Tips

October 2007

Conserving Water at Home

Families use a lot of water, and the first step to reducing our water usage is awareness. Take a look at your day-to-day activities and see where you can save aqua and money.

In 5 minutes or less...

- Discuss the importance of saving water with your family. Let everyone in your household know how to keep H₂O in our streams and out of our sewers.
- Toilets account for 40% of your water use. Become a “if it’s yellow, let it mellow” family. Flush #2s or hold off until several family members have used the toilet.
- Don’t run the water while you’re brushing your teeth, shaving or soaping up dishes.
- When possible, run the dishwasher and washing machine at night, when water demand is low. Run fewer full loads of dishes and clothes instead of many small ones (dishwashers use less water than handwashing).

In one hour or less...

- Buy faucet aerators to increase water pressure while reducing water flow.
- Check for leaks in your faucets and toilets. Take time to fix them now!
- Install a low-drip irrigation system for your watering needs in the summer. Stash the hose.
- Wash your autos at a professional car washer. They are required to recycle water and clean it before sending waste into our sewers.
- If you don’t have a low-flow toilet, put 2 half-gallon plastic bottles filled with water in your tank to save a gallon with each flush (ensure it’s still working properly, or you’ll need a plumber!)

In a weekend ...

- Install a rain barrel for every downspout, and water your yard with collected rainfall.
- Replace toilets with a low-flow design, or retrofit your current toilets with an adjustable flusher, with one lever for #1 and another for #2. Especially fun for kids!
- Replace parts or all of your lawn with xeriscaping. Design the space with native plants or drought resistant flora.