



Water Conservation Tips

from the Friends of the Little Plover River

IN the KITCHEN

- If you wash dishes by hand don't leave the water running for rinsing. Fill a pan with rinse water.
- When washing dishes by hand, use the least amount of detergent possible. This minimizes rinse water needed.
- Operate automatic dishwashers only when they are fully loaded. Use the "light wash" feature to use less water.
- Avoid rinsing dishes before placing them in the dishwasher; just remove large particles of food. (Most dishwashers can clean soiled dishes very well, so dishes do not have to be rinsed before washing)
- Keep a bottle of drinking water in the refrigerator. This beats the wasteful habit of running tap water to cool it for drinking.
- Avoid wasting water waiting for it to get hot. Capture it for other uses such as plant watering.
- Don't defrost frozen foods with running water. Either plan ahead by placing frozen items in the refrigerator overnight or defrost them in the microwave.
- Clean vegetables in a pan filled with water rather than running water from the tap.
- Use the garbage disposal less and the trash and compost pile more.



IN the BATHROOM

- Replace your showerhead with an low-flow version.
- Take short showers - turn on water only to get wet and lather and then again to rinse off.
- Avoid flushing the toilet unnecessarily. Dispose of tissues, insects and other similar waste in the trash rather than the toilet.
- Consider purchasing a low-volume toilet that uses less than half the water of older models.
- Install a water displacement device in your toilet to cut down on the amount of water needed to flush. Place a plastic jug of water into the tank to displace toilet flow (do not use a brick, it may dissolve and loose pieces may cause damage to the internal parts). Be sure installation does not interfere with the operating parts.
- Check toilet for leaks. Put dye tablets or food coloring into the tank. If color appears in the bowl without flushing, there's a leak that should be repaired
- Turn off the water while brushing your teeth
- Turn off the water while shaving. Fill the bottom of the sink with a few inches of water to rinse your razor.



Conserving H₂O = Conserving \$\$\$

IN the YARD

- Avoid over watering your lawn. Most of the year, lawns only need one inch of water per week.
- Water during the cool parts of the day. Early morning is better than dusk since it helps prevent the growth of fungus.
- Don't water the lawn on windy days. There's too much evaporation.
- Water in several short sessions rather than one long one, your lawn will absorb the moisture better.
- Position sprinklers so water lands on the lawn and shrubs and not on paved areas.
- Avoid sprinklers that spray a fine mist. Mist can evaporate before it reaches the lawn.
- Avoid leaving sprinklers or hoses unattended. A garden hose can pour out 600 gallons or more in only a few hours.
- Install irrigation devices that are the most water efficient for each use. Micro and drip irrigation and soaker hoses are examples of efficient devices.
- If you allow your children to play in the sprinklers, make sure it's when you're watering the yard
- Set lawn mower blades one notch higher. Longer grass means less evaporation.
- Xeriscape--replace high-water-using grass, trees and plants with less thirsty ones including a drought-resistant lawn. But do this only in wet years. Even drought resistant plantings take extra water to get started.
- Put a layer of mulch around trees and plants. Chunks of bark, peat moss or gravel slows down evaporation.
- Avoid over-fertilizing your lawn. Applying fertilizer increases the need for water. Apply fertilizers that contain slow-release, water-insoluble forms of nitrogen.
- Use a broom or blower instead of a hose to clean leaves and other debris from your driveway or sidewalk.
- Avoid purchasing water toys that require a constant stream of water.
- Avoid installing ornamental water features (such as fountains) unless they use recycled water.



CAR WASHING



- Don't run the hose while washing your car. Use a bucket of water and a quick hose rinse at the end.
- When taking your car to a car wash--a good idea for saving water--be sure it's one of the many that recycles its wash water.
- If you wash your own car, park on the grass so that you will be watering it at the same time.

More Tips

For more Water Saving Tips check out
www.eplover.com/water-conservation.htm

AROUND the HOUSE

- o Check your well pump periodically. If the automatic pump turns on and off while water is not being used, you have a leak.
- o Fix leaky faucets and plumbing joints.
- o Run only full loads in the laundry machine.

