



## Water Conservation

<b>Water Use Habits</b>		
<b>Water Use</b>	<b>Typical Usage</b>	<b>Water Use Reduction (Saving)</b>
Showering	20-40 gallons (4 gal./min.)	5 gallons (wet, soap up, rinse off)
Teeth Brushing	2+ gallons (faucet running)	1 pint (wet brush, rinse briefly)
Shaving	3-5 gallons (faucet running)	1 gallon (fill basin, rinse briefly)
Hand Dishwashing	20 gallons (faucet running)	5 gallons (wash & rinse in filled sink)
Outdoor Watering	5-10 gallons per minute	Water only when needed (every 5-7 days)
Washing Machine	51 gallons	Do full-load instead of two half-loads
Dishwasher	14 gallons (partially loaded)	Wait until washer is fully loaded
Toilet Flushing	3.5 - 4.5 gallons	1.6 gallons (standard for new toilets)

**For more information:**

- Contact your city's water utilities department about local water conservation efforts and advice to lower you water bill.
- Contact the [Anoka Conservation District](http://www.anokacounty.org/conservation) (763-434-2030) about how you can be *Water-Smart* to conserve our water and other natural resources.
- Go to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [WaterSense website](http://www.epa.gov/watersense) (www.epa.gov/watersense) for national programs and initiatives that can save you money make your home/business water-efficient.

# Water Saving Habits

<b>INSIDE</b>	<p><b>FIND AND FIX A LEAK:</b> did you know that an American home can waste (on average) over 10,000 gallons of water every year due to running toilets, dripping faucets, and other leaks? A slow drip wastes 15 to 20 gallons of water each day. Anoka County residents are encouraged to check their plumbing fixtures and irrigation systems in March during the national <i>Fix a Leak Week</i>.</p> <p>Check your toilet for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank - if the color appears in the bowl without flushing - repair is recommended.</p>
	<p><b>SHOWER:</b> replace older shower head that use up to 10 gallons per minute (gpm) with a new low-flow (2.5 gpm) shower head.</p>
	<p><b>TUB BATHS:</b> use more water than short showers. Conserve water by filling the tub a third to half full. Every inch in a equals about 5 gallons.</p>
	<p><b>COLD GLASS OF WATER:</b> instead of running the faucet for a cold glass of water, put a bottle or pitcher of water in the refrigerator.</p>
	<p><b>LOW-FLOW FAUCETS:</b> install low-flow aerators on bathroom and kitchen faucets.</p>
	<p><b>WASHING DISHES BY HAND:</b> Don't run water continuously. Instead fill a basin or use a stopper in the sink for rinse water.</p>
	<p><b>AUTOMATIC DISHWASHER AND CLOTHES WASHER:</b> wait until you can wash a full load in the machine. [less washing - lower "<i>wear and tear</i>" on machines - less detergent wasted]</p>
<b>OUTSIDE</b>	<p><b>CAR WASHING:</b> use bucket instead of a constantly running hose.</p>
	<p><b>LAWN AND GARDEN:</b> water only as needed. Frequent watering develops unnatural plant development, shallow roots and weak turf that is dependent on daily water. A good rain can supply a lawn for up to two weeks.</p>
	<p><b>LAWN WATERING:</b> only during the early morning when evaporation is lower. Water infrequently to encourage deep-rooting to make turf more drought tolerant (less water dependent).</p>
	<p><b>AUTOMATIC SPRINKLER SYSTEMS:</b> that use a programmed schedule can actually water a lawn during a rain storm. Consider installing a rain sensor/shut-off to stop sprinkling. Set for a low-use(once a week) watering schedule that you can increase if/when necessary.</p>
	<p><b>CUT GRASS:</b> at three (3) inches and allow to grow taller in hot weather (to shade the turf).</p>
	<p><b>ALTERNATIVES TO LAWN:</b> consider landscape options that do not require as much water and express your individuality. Establish gardens with native plants or rock gardens.</p>

\*Adapted from Water-Smart (Anoka Conservation District), Water Use Habits (MN Dept. of Natural Resources) and US EPA WaterSense (program).

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**Know The Flow** is a water resources management initiative to provide public information and coordination with Anoka County agencies, communities and water management organizations.

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