

SAVE WATER – SAVE MONEY

EASY WAYS TO REDUCE WATER USAGE AT HOME

Adapted from a Rotary Club of Coon Rapids brochure - “*Service above Self*”

Conserving water is an important part of living in a sustainable environment. Much of our world lacks safe, clean water and we don’t want to be next! When you conserve water at home, you save money on your utility bills too. Using less water is easy to do. Here are some simple ways to slow down the spin of your water meter.

Kitchen

- ❖ Wash fruits and vegetables in a pan of water instead of under a running tap.
- ❖ Don’t use running water to thaw food – defrost in the refrigerator.
- ❖ Keep a picture of cold water in the refrigerator.
- ❖ Soak pots and pans instead of running water while scraping.
- ❖ Only run dishwasher with a full load.
- ❖ Use garbage disposal sparingly – consider composting vegetable food waste.
- ❖ Install an instant water heater near your kitchen sink to have instant hot water (also reduces energy costs)

Laundry & Inside

- ❖ Insulate hot water pipes for more immediate hot water at faucets.
- ❖ Run clothes washer with a full load.
- ❖ Washing dark clothes in cold water saves both water and energy while keeping colors from fading.
- ❖ Set water softeners for maximum recycle period, saving both water and chemicals.
- ❖ Read your water meter before and after a two-hour period of now water use to determine if a leak is registered on the meter.
- ❖ Make sure that there are water-saving aerators on all faucets.
- ❖ Fix leaking faucets.
- ❖ If you drop an ice cube don’t throw it in the sink, drop it in the house plant.

Bathroom

- ❖ Shower uses less water than a bath.
- ❖ Install low-flow showerhead. If your showerhead fills a one-gallon bucket in 20 seconds, replace the showerhead.
- ❖ Shorten your shower by 1-2 minutes.
- ❖ Let your young children share their baths.
- ❖ When washing hands, don’t let the water run while lathering.
- ❖ Don’t run the faucet while brushing teeth.
- ❖ Rinse razor in a few inches of water.
- ❖ Don’t use toilet as a waste basket or ash tray.
- ❖ Put food coloring in toilet tank to find a leak.

Outside & Lawn

- ❖ Wash your car on the lawn to water grass at the same time. Don’t let the hose run.
- ❖ Use car wash that recycles its water.
- ❖ Use a broom instead of hose to clean driveway and sidewalk.
- ❖ Plant a rain garden.
- ❖ Water lawn and shrubs for an extended time but infrequently to encourage root growth & drought tolerance.
- ❖ Avoid watering on windy days and during the middle of the day because it is lost to evaporation.
- ❖ Collect water from your roof in a rain barrel to water your garden.
- ❖ Keep street gutters free of leaves and lawn clipping that wash into storm sewers that drain directly into streams and lakes.



Coon Rapids Rotary Club

The Coon Rapids Rotary launched their 2011 Community Water Project to foster both water conservation and prevention of Water Pollution.