

# Water Conservation is Serious Business.

Water. Like many things around us we seldom appreciate what is plentiful and easy to obtain. And what could be more plentiful than water? But water does not magically appear. Ultimately, the fresh water available to you depends on a number of factors — rainfall, local geography, hydrology. Water is indeed a precious resource in our environment.

If we take out more water than the natural system allows then this leads to a lowering of the water table and possible dramatic effects upon water quality, future water supplies and agriculture. Growing populations and ongoing droughts are squeezing our water resources dry causing harmful consequences for wildlife and in many cases reducing flowing rivers to muddy puddles.

So value your water supply and use the water you have in a sustainable way by conserving and recycling it.

## Outdoor Water Conservation Tips

- **Don't over water your lawn.** As a general rule, lawns only need watering every 5 to 7 days in the summer. Water during the early morning hours when temperatures and wind speed are lowest to reduce losses from evaporation.
- **Use efficient watering systems.** You can greatly reduce the amount of water used for shrubs, beds and lawns with strategic placement of soaker hoses, rain barrel catchment systems and simple drip-irrigation systems. Water meters and timers can be used to set water usage to required needs.
- **Don't water the street.** Position your sprinklers so that water lands on the lawn or garden, not on paved areas. Avoid hosing down your driveway or sidewalk; use brooms instead to save hundreds of gallons of drinkable water.
- **Check for leaks.** Leaks outside the house may not seem as bad since they're not as visible but they can be just as wasteful as indoor leaks. Check frequently and use hose washers at spigots and hose connections to eliminate leaks.
- **Plant drought-tolerant shrubs and plants.** Many grasses, ground covers, shrubs and trees thrive with far less watering. Consider the concept of Xeriscape™ for a low-maintenance, drought resistant yard. Check with your local nursery for advice.
- **Don't run the hose while washing your car.** If you wash your own car, park it on the grass and use the hose only for rinsing. Consider using a commercial car wash that recycles water which can save up to 100 gallons of water per wash.
- **Cover your outdoor pool.** An average-size pool loses approximately 1,000 gallons of water per month to evaporation. A pool cover can cut the loss by 90%. Also consider a new water-saving pool filter.
- **Set a good example.** Create an awareness of the need for water conservation among your children. Avoid purchasing recreational water toys that require a constant stream of water. Encourage your family and others to keep looking for ways to conserve water.



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# Water... Waste not, Want not.

70 percent of our bodies are made up of water, but this does not seem to reflect our attitude toward this vital natural element. Except for the air we breathe, water is the single most important element in our lives... and far too precious to waste.

Yet we are often the biggest wasters of water in our environment. We take it for granted that all we have to do is turn on the faucet and our water magically appears 24 hours a day. We give no thought to the fact that the high-quality water we need and expect in our homes is not an infinite source.


Conserving water benefits you and all those around you. Household water conservation not only saves water, it saves energy too, which ultimately translates in cost savings to you. By following some simple suggestions, you can save hundreds, even thousands, of gallons per month without any great inconvenience. Conserving our precious natural resources is a shared responsibility. Do your part today.

## Indoor Water Conservation Tips

- **Take shorter showers.** Limit your showers to the time it takes to soap up, wash down and rinse off. A 4-minute shower uses approximately 20 to 40 gallons of water. You can also install water-saving shower heads and low-flow faucet aerators.
- **Displace water in your toilet tank.** Fill a plastic bottle or milk jug with water and place it in your toilet tank, safely away from the operating mechanisms. This may save 10 or more gallons of water per day. Consider installing "low flush" toilets, which use only 1 to 2 gallons per flush.
- **Turn water off when shaving or brushing teeth.** There is no need to keep the water running while brushing your teeth - just wet your brush and fill a glass for rinsing. Filling your sink with a few inches of warm water will rinse your razor just as well as running water.
- **Run your dishwasher or washing machine with full loads.** Dishwashers and clothes washers should be fully loaded for optimum water conservation. With washing machines, avoid the permanent press cycle, which uses an added 5 gallons for the extra rinse.
- **Refrigerate your drinking water.** Instead of letting the water run in the sink when you want a cool drink, keep a jug or pitcher full of water in the refrigerator.
- **Recycle water.** Use a dishpan to wash your dishes and when you are through, use the dirty water to water houseplants. When you clean your fish tank use that water on houseplants as well. It's rich in nitrogen and phosphorous - a good fertilizer. Remember not to leave the water running when washing dishes by hand.
- **Use a sink stopper.** Don't let the faucet run when you scrub vegetables or prepare other foods. Put a sink stopper in the drain and use the water collected in the sink instead.
- **Set a good example.** Create an awareness of the need for water conservation among your children. Encourage your family and others to keep looking for ways to conserve water.



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## One Small Leak...

That's all it takes. Household leaks can waste up to 200 gallons of water per day. Water leaks cause you to lose money, drip by drip. And you pay for every drop of water, whether it is used wisely or wasted.

Have you ever heard the faint sound of running water in your home when things are quiet late at night? Or perhaps you've wondered about that soggy patch of lawn that won't seem to go away, even in the heat of summer? If you're experiencing either of these conditions, it may be that the water pipe serving your property has sprung a leak.

Whether it is a small drip from the faucet or a larger leak in your water line, it all adds up to dollars and cents that come from your pocket. Detecting and repairing leaks is economically smart and helps conserve one of our precious resources...water.

## Typical Water Leaks in Your Home

- **Toilets.** An average of 20% of toilets leak. If your toilet is leaking, you could be wasting from 30 to 500 gallons of water per day. A simple toilet dye test obtained from Inman-Campobello Water District can assist you in determining if you have a leak.
- **Hidden leaks.** Read the water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter does not read exactly the same, there is a leak.
- **Indoor Faucets.** Check every faucet in your house for leaks. A single dripping faucet can waste more water in a single day than one person needs for drinking in an entire week. Replace or add washers if necessary.
- **Outdoor fixtures.** Leaks outside the house may not seem as bad since they're not as visible but they can be just as wasteful as indoor leaks. Check all hoses, connectors, and spigots regularly and use washers to eliminate leaks.
- **Pipes.** To avoid leaks or bursting pipes in inclement weather, use pipe insulation and wrap all exposed pipes outside and in unheated areas of your home with weatherproof insulating material. You can also use plastic, newspaper, rags or blankets.
- **Hot water heaters.** Condensation dripping down the side of the tank and pooling on the floor can appear to be a leaking tank. Cold water entering the tank can cause this, especially in humid areas. Verify this is the problem by turning off the power/gas to the heater for a few hours and see if there is still pooling water or water on the side of the tank. A water leak may be cured simply by tightening the drain valve or by closing a temperature-pressure relief valve that's open. If the water is leaking from the seams of the tank and/or there is a lot of corrosion then replacement may be the only option.



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# When Disaster Strikes...

Are you prepared? Disaster can strike quickly and without warning. It can force you to evacuate your neighborhood or confine you to your home. What would you do if basic services — water, gas, electricity or telephones — were cut off? Local officials and relief workers will be on the scene after a disaster, but they cannot reach everyone right away. Water utilities have emergency preparedness and response plans in place, working closely with local, state and federal officials.

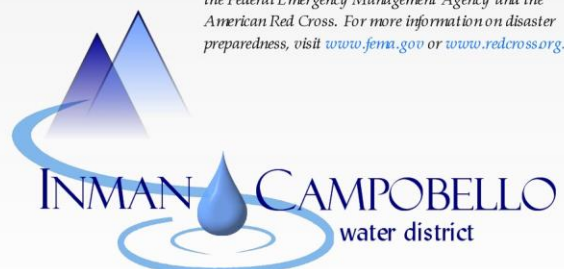
Water supply emergencies are very rare. If a disaster does strike, you may not have much time to react. By planning ahead and making preparations now, you can help protect your family in a dire situation.

Having an ample supply of clean water is a top priority in an emergency. You can take some simple steps to help ensure that you and your family have an adequate supply of safe drinking water should an emergency occur.

## Water Tips in an Emergency

- ❑ The safest and most reliable emergency supply of water is commercially bottled water. Keep bottled water in its original container, and do not open it until needed.
- ❑ To prepare your own containers of water purchase food-grade water storage containers from surplus or camping supply stores for water storage. Fill to the top with regular tap water. Write the date on the outside and store in a cool, dark place. Replace water every six months.
- ❑ Should you lose water service, safe water sources in your home include the water in your hot-water tank, pipes, and ice cubes. You *should not* use water from toilet flush tanks or bowls, radiators, waterbeds, or swimming pools/spas.
- ❑ Protect the water sources already in your home from contamination if you hear reports of broken water or sewage lines, or if local officials advise you of a problem. Shut off incoming water by locating the main valve and turning it to the closed position.
- ❑ To use the water in your pipes, let air into the plumbing by turning on the faucet in your home at the highest level. A small amount of water will trickle out. Then obtain water from the lowest faucet in the home.
- ❑ To use the water in your hot-water tank, make sure the electricity or gas is off and open the drain at the bottom of the tank. Start the water flow by turning off the water intake valve at the tank and turning on a hot-water faucet. Refill the tank before turning the gas or electricity back on.
- ❑ If you need to find water outside your home use rain water, streams, rivers, ponds or natural springs. Boiling is the safest method of treating this water. Bring to a rolling boil for at least one full minute and let the water cool before drinking.

Source: "Food and Water in an Emergency" developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the American Red Cross. For more information on disaster preparedness, visit [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) or [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org).



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