

WATER CONSERVATION

Beaver Dam East
Domestic Water
Improvement
District

WATER

Make every drop count

With green grass, bushes and tall green trees, it is sometimes easy to forget, but one only need look at the dry, brown grasses and brush that surround us, to be reminded we live in a desert. Water is a precious resource that needs to be managed and conserved properly to help insure the we of life we have become accustomed to. Water conservation, like many things, is a matter of degree and starts with an awareness of usage practices. Making the water you use count seems obvious, but you may be surprised how much room for improvement there is. What follows are suggestions for both indoor and outdoor use. We all can do our part now to insure a bright and green future.

OUTDOOR

Water conservation outdoors does not have to mean a yard covered with rock, cacti and cattle skulls with little to no vegetation. Observing the following tips can have dramatic effect one the amount of water used while preserving a healthy, green landscape.

Don't over water your lawn. Watering deeply and less frequently creates deeper roots and a more drought resistant lawn., To determine sprinkler run time, place straight-sided cans at difference distances from the sprinklers and time how long it takes to fill a average of one inch in each can. An excellent tutorial can be found at : www.wateruseitwisely.com/watergui.de/index.html

Automatic sprinkler timers can be a real time saver, but they're not set and forget. Adjust run times to fit the season. Adjust sprinkler heads to cover the lawn, not sidewalks and driveways. Periodically check for

leaks and broken heads.

Plant smart. Group plants with similar water needs together and create zones within your irrigation system to meet those needs.

Prevent evaporation of water. Water lawns early in the morning or late in the evening during the hotter summer months. Never water on windy days. Use drip irrigation for bedded plants, trees and shrubs.

Use mulch around shrubs and trees. It will retain moisture, reduce runoff and help with weed control.

Use a broom or blower to clean off sidewalks, driveways and patios, not the hose.

Avoid purchasing a recreational water toy that requires a constant stream of water.

Most commercial car washes recycle water. If you wash your own car, use a shutoff nozzle on the hose. If possible, wash cars on the lawn.

INDOOR

Watch for and fix leaks and drips. To test if a toilet is leaking, put a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait a few minutes without flushing. If color appears in the bowl, the flapper valve is leaking and needs to be repaired or replaced. Flush immediately after the test to avoid stains.

Never use the toilet to dispose of trash.

Install low-volume toilets or use a displacement device in the tank of older toilets. Low-volume toilets are now mandatory in newer homes.

Get in the shower as soon as it become hot enough. Leaving it running, unused, not only wastes

water, it wastes energy.

Don't leave the water running when you aren't using it.

Keep a container of cool water in the refrigerator. Running tap water until it is cool is wasteful. Consider a refrigerator with water or ice through the door.

Only use the dishwasher for full loads. If dishes aren't heavily soiled, use the shorter cycle. The same logic applies to the clothes washer.

Don't use running water to thaw meat or frozen foods. Defrost them overnight in the refrigerator or use the defrost setting on your microwave.

GENERAL

Follow water conservation and water shortage rules in effect.

Report water losses (broken pipes, open hydrants, errant sprinklers, etc.) to the property owner or water provider.

Encourage a water conservation ethic in local schools.

Support projects to increase the use of reclaimed wastewater for irrigation and other uses.

Promote water conservation. Encourage your friends, neighbors and co-workers to be water smart. Even if someone is served by a different provider or private well, the water has to come from somewhere.

For further information, visit the Arizona Department of Water Resources water conservation website:

[Http://www.water.az.gov/adwr/Content/Conservation/WaterUseItWisely/default.htm](http://www.water.az.gov/adwr/Content/Conservation/WaterUseItWisely/default.htm)