

## **WATER CONSERVATION TIPS:**

### **ARE YOU INTERESTED IN LOWERING YOUR WATER BILL?**

Follow these instructions to check for water leaks in your plumbing system and follow the water conservation tips below and you will be able to lower your water bill.

### **HIGH WATER USAGE PROBLEMS:**

If your water usage is higher than usual and you cannot account for the additional usage, you should check for leaks.

### **TOILETS & SINKS:**

Ninety percent of the time high water usage is related to leaking toilets. Homeowners should check the top of their meter to see if the low flow indicator is moving. The flow indicator depending on which style of register you have is either a small black triangle located in the middle of the register or a red circle located in the lower right hand side of the register. If this low flow indicator is moving, water is going through the water meter. If no water is being used in the home the homeowner should shut off the valve alongside the base of their toilet and then check the low flow indicator again. If the low flow indicator has stopped moving after the toilet valve has been turned off, you have discovered your leak and your toilet needs to be fixed. Homeowners should check all of their toilets this way as well as all faucets and water softeners. Other sources to check would be your outside faucets and humidifiers. You can also put a couple of drops of food coloring into the toilet tank and if the water in the toilet bowl turns color you have a toilet tank leak.

All water that goes through the meter is billed to the resident, repairing leaks in a timely fashion is your best defense against rising water bills. Residents can obtain a list of licensed plumbers from our Engineering Department.

### **WATER SOFTENERS:**

Water softeners may be regenerating too often or could be stuck. A good indicator of this is an increase in salt usage. Water softeners should be serviced by qualified personnel.

### **IRRIGATION SYSTEMS:**

Irrigation systems may run too long or could be stuck.

### **IN THE BATHROOM:**

- Use the toilet only for its intended purpose, not for the disposal of tissues or trash.
- Watch for leaky taps or toilets and repair immediately. A slow drip wastes 15 to 20 gallons of water per day. Often only a washer is needed to stop a drip.
- When installing a new toilet, consider a low-capacity model. They are usually less expensive and cut down significantly on the amount of water used.
- Take shorter showers. Showers require less water than tub baths. Every inch in the tub equals approximately five (5) gallons.

- Up to five gallons per minute goes straight down the drain when taps are left running to shave or brush teeth. Turn on the taps only when needed.

**IN THE KITCHEN:**

- When washing dishes by hand, fill a basin or put a stopper in a sink for rinsing rather than running the tap.
- Automatic dishwashers use 12 to 25 gallons for each full cycle; avoid using the “rinse only” cycle and washing small loads.
- Avoid running the tap for a glass of water. Put a bottle or pitcher in the refrigerator.
- Never pour grease or oil in a drain. It requires too much water to rinse it down and may clog the drain. Store grease or oil in a container.
- Since washing machines require 40 gallons or more, save water by washing only full loads.

**OUTDOORS:**

- Use buckets and tubs to wash your car or the dog, rather than continuously running a hose.
- Water lawns and gardens only when needed and only during the early morning or evening when evaporation is lower. City ordinance prohibits watering lawns between the hours of 11:00 am and 6:00 pm from April 15<sup>th</sup> through September 15<sup>th</sup>.
- A garden hose will dispense up to 600 gallons in two hours. A nozzle will act as a flow restrictor and reduce water use significantly.
- Cutting grass at a two to three inch height instead of cropping it closely will reduce the amount of water needed.
- Sweep sidewalks and driveways instead of watering them down with a hose.
- Re-use as much water as possible.

<b>WATER USE HABITS Typical Use</b>		<b>Good, Water-Saving Habits</b>
Showering	20-40 gallons (5 gallons per minute)	5 gallons (wet down, soap up, rinse off)
Tub bathing	36 gallons (full)	10-12 gallons (low level)
Toilet flushing	6 gallons	3-5 gallons (tank displacement or half-flush device)
Teeth brushing	2 gallons (tap running)	1 pint (wet brush, rinse briefly)
Hand washing	2 gallons (tap running)	1 gallon (fill basin, rinse briefly)
Shaving	3-5 gallons (tap running)	1 gallon (fill basin, rinse briefly)
Dish washing	20 gallons (tap running)	5 gallons (wash, rinse in pan or sink)
Automatic dishwasher	15 gallons (full cycle)	DO ONLY FULL LOADS
Clothes Washer	36-60 gallons (full cycle)	DO ONLY FULL LOADS
Outdoor Washing	5-10 gallons per minute	Be sensible, seek local lawn/garden expert advice