

100 Ways to Conserve WATER

Did You Know?

- * Using a bucket of water to clean a car instead of a hose saves about 300 litres of water
- * A traditional washing machine uses 130 to 250 litres of water to launder a large load
- * Up to 75% of indoor home water use occurs in the bathroom, and toilets are the single biggest water users. Toilets use over 40% more water than needed
- * A tap leaking one drop of water per second wastes more than 25 litres of water a day, that's 9000 litres per year
- * A five minute shower with a standard showerhead uses 100 litres of water, A five minute shower with a low-flow showerhead uses 35 litres of water
- * A dishwasher uses 40 litres of water, hand washing dishes uses about 35 litres
- * Less than 3% of the water treated at a large municipal water treatment plant is used for drinking
- * The laundry room accounts for 20% of household water use
- * During the summer, about half of all treated water is sprayed onto lawns and gardens
- * One lawn sprinkler spraying 19 litres per minute uses 50% more water in one hour than a combination of 10 toilet flushes, two five-minute showers, two dishwasher loads and a load of clothes washing

Alberta's Centennial City™



These tips have been brought to you by
the City of Brooks
Environmental Advisory Committee.

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In the Kitchen...

- 81) Scrape food off dishes instead of rinsing off before you put in the dishwasher.
- 82) Use the water left over from cooked or steamed foods for soup.
- 83) When washing dishes by hand, don't let the water run while rinsing. Fill one sink with wash water and the other with rinse water.
- 84) Some refrigerators, air conditioners and ice-makers are cooled with wasted flows of water. Upgrade to air-cooled appliances for significant water savings.
- 85) Use the garbage disposal sparingly. Compost vegetable food waste instead and save litres every time.
- 86) For cold drinks keep a pitcher of water in the fridge instead of running the tap.
- 87) Collect the water you use for rinsing fruits and vegetables, then reuse it to water houseplants.
- 88) Designate one glass for your drinking water each day or refill a water bottle. This will cut down on the number of glasses to wash.
- 89) Don't use running water to thaw food. Defrost food in the refrigerator for water efficiency and food safety.
- 90) Soak pots and pans instead of letting the water run while you scrape them clean.
- 91) If your dishwasher is new, cut back on rinsing. Newer models clean more thoroughly than older ones.

Extra Tips...

- 92) The 4 Rs of water conservation are Reduce, Retrofit, Repair and Replace.
- 93) Monitor your water bill for unusually high use. Your bill and water meter are tools that can help you discover leaks.
- 94) Teach your children to turn off faucets tightly after each use.
- 95) Read your water meter before and after a two hour period when no water is being used. If the meter reading isn't the same, you have a leak.
- 96) Encourage your school system and local government to develop and promote water conservation among children and adults.
- 97) While staying in a hotel or even at home, consider reusing your towels.
- 98) Make suggestions to your employer about ways to save water and money at work.
- 99) Support projects that use reclaimed wastewater for irrigation and industrial uses.
- 100) Share water conservation tips with friends and neighbours.



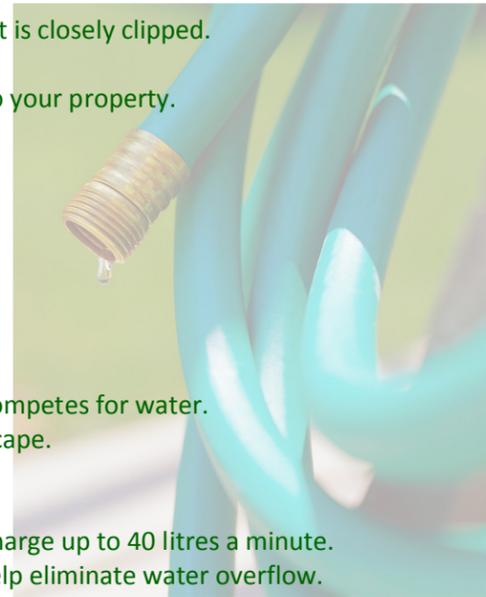
In the Bathroom...

- 1) If your shower fills a one-gallon (4 litre) bucket in less than 20 seconds, replace the showerhead with a water-efficient model.
- 2) Shorten your shower by a minute or two. You will save 10 litres of water per minute.
- 3) If possible, upgrade older toilets with water efficient models. Check for rebates from your municipality or manufacturers
- 4) When running a bath, plug the tub before turning the water on, then adjust the temperature as the tub fills up.
- 5) To save water and time, wash your face and brush your teeth while in the shower.
- 6) If your toilet flapper doesn't close after flushing, replace it.
- 7) Flush toilets less often and don't use them as a garbage or an ashtray
- 8) Put food coloring or leak identification tablets in your toilet tank. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak.
- 9) Bathe your young children together.
- 10) If your toilet was installed before 1992, reduce the amount of water used for each flush by inserting a displacement device in the tank.
- 11) Use a glass of water to rinse your toothbrush. Rinsing a toothbrush under a tap wastes about 4000 litres of water a year
- 12) Turn off the water while you wash your hair to save up to 600 litres a month.
- 13) Keep a bucket in the shower to catch water as it warms up or runs. Use this water to flush toilets or water plants, or add to washing machine.
- 14) Turn off the water while you shave and save up to 1100 litres a month - turn off the water while brushing your teeth and save 100 litres a month.



Outside...

- 15) Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk, or street.
- 16) Choose shrubs and groundcovers instead of turf for hard-to-water areas such as steep slopes and isolated strips.
- 17) Install covers on pools and spas and check for leaks around your pumps.
- 18) Water your lawn and garden in the morning or evening when temperatures are cooler to minimize evaporation.
- 19) Use a broom instead of a hose to clean your driveway and sidewalk and save water every time.
- 20) If water runs off your lawn easily, split your watering time into shorter 5 minute intervals and water 2 or 3 times periods to allow for better absorption.
- 21) Check the root zone of your lawn or garden for moisture before watering using a spade or trowel. If it's still moist two inches under the soil surface, don't water!
- 22) When back-flushing your pool or emptying your kiddie pool, consider using the water on your landscaping.
- 23) Adjust your lawn mower to a higher setting. A taller lawn shades roots and holds soil moisture better than if it is closely clipped.
- 24) Use sprinklers for large areas of grass. Water small patches by hand to avoid waste.
- 25) Walkways and patios provide space that doesn't ever need to be watered. These useful "rooms" can also add value to your property.
- 26) Collect water from your roof to water your garden in an enclosed rain barrel
- 27) Install a rain sensor on your irrigation controller so your system won't run when it's raining.
- 28) Reduce the amount of lawn in your yard by planting shrubs and ground covers appropriate to your site and region.
- 29) Use drip irrigation for shrubs and trees to apply water directly to the roots where it's needed.
- 30) Remember to check your sprinkler system valves periodically for leaks and keep the sprinkler heads in good shape.
- 31) Don't water your lawn on windy days when most of the water blows away or evaporates.
- 32) Water your plants deeply but less frequently to encourage deep root growth and drought tolerance.
- 33) Group plants with the same watering needs together to avoid overwatering some while under watering others.
- 34) Use a layer of organic material on the surface of your planting beds to retain moisture, minimize weed growth that competes for water.
- 35) Use a minimum amount of organic or slow release fertilizer to promote a healthy and drought tolerant landscape.
- 36) Trickling or cascading fountains lose less water to evaporation than those spraying water into the air.
- 37) Avoid recreational water toys that require a constant flow of water.
- 38) Set a kitchen timer when watering your lawn or garden to remind you when to stop. A running hose can discharge up to 40 litres a minute.
- 39) For hanging baskets, planters and pots, place ice cubes under the moss or dirt to give your plants a cool drink of water and help eliminate water overflow.
- 40) Next time you add or replace a flower or shrub, choose a low water use plant for year-round landscape color and save up to 2000 litres each year.
- 41) If installing a lawn, select a turf mix or blend that matches your climate and site conditions.
- 42) When the kids want to cool off, use the sprinkler in an area where your lawn needs it the most.
- 43) Consult with your local nursery for information on plant selection and placement for optimum outdoor water savings.
- 44) Winterize outdoor spigots when temperatures dip below freezing to prevent pipes from leaking or bursting.
- 45) Wash your car on the lawn, and you'll water your lawn at the same time.
- 46) Direct water from rain gutters and HVAC systems toward water-loving plants in the landscape for automatic water savings.
- 47) Leave lower branches on trees and shrubs and allow leaf litter to accumulate on the soil. This keeps the soil cooler and reduces evaporation.
- 48) Let your lawn go dormant during the summer. Dormant grass only needs to be watered every three weeks or less if it rains.
- 49) Plant with finished compost to add water-holding and nutrient-rich organic matter to the soil.
- 50) Use sprinklers that deliver big drops of water close to the ground. Smaller water drops and mist often evaporate before they hit the ground.
- 51) Have your plumber re-route your gray water to trees and gardens rather than letting it run into the sewer line.
- 52) Water only when necessary. More plants die from over-watering than from under-watering.
- 53) Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it.
- 54) Catch water in an empty tuna can or rain gauge to measure sprinkler output. One inch of water on one square foot of grass equals two-thirds of a gallon of water.
- 55) Aerate your lawn at least once a year so water can reach the roots rather than run off the surface.
- 56) We're more likely to notice leaks indoors, but don't forget to check outdoor faucets, sprinklers and hoses for leaks.
- 57) Adjust your watering schedule each month to match seasonal weather conditions and landscape requirements.



Around the House...

- 58) Check your furnace humidifier. The water should not drain out of the line when the furnace isn't running.
- 59) Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 3,500 litres a month.
- 60) Use a commercial car wash that recycles water.
- 61) When buying new appliances, consider those that offer cycle and load size adjustments. They're more water and energy efficient.
- 62) A full-size EnerGuide washing machine uses half the water of a regular washing machine, and holds more clothes.
- 63) When cleaning out fish tanks, give the nutrient-rich water to your plants.
- 64) Grab a wrench and fix that leaky faucet. It's simple, inexpensive, and you can save 1100 litres per month.
- 65) Know where your master water shut-off valve is located. In the event of a large leak, this could save water and prevent damage to your home.
- 66) When doing laundry, match the water level to the size of the load.
- 67) When you are washing your hands, don't let the water run while you lather.
- 68) If you accidentally drop ice cubes when filling your glass from the freezer, don't throw them in the sink. Drop them in a house plant instead.
- 69) When you give your pet fresh water, don't throw the old water down the drain. Use it to water your trees or shrubs.
- 70) Learn how to shut off your automatic watering system in case it malfunctions or you get an unexpected rain.
- 71) Make sure there are water-saving aerators on all of your faucets.
- 72) Install an instant water heater near your kitchen sink so you don't have to run the water while it heats up. This also reduces energy costs.
- 73) Make sure your swimming pools, fountains, and ponds are equipped with re-circulating pumps.
- 74) Insulate hot water pipes for more immediate hot water at the faucet and for energy savings.
- 75) When you have ice left in your cup from a take-out restaurant, don't throw it in the trash, dump it on a plant.
- 76) Setting cooling systems and water softeners for a minimum number of refills saves both water and chemicals, plus more on utility bills.
- 77) Washing dark clothes in cold water saves both on water and energy while it helps your clothes to keep their colors.
- 78) Report broken pipes, open hydrants and errant sprinklers to the property owner or your water provider.
- 79) Wash your pets outdoors in an area of your lawn that needs water.
- 80) When shopping for a new clothes washer, look for Energy Star models. Some of these can save up to 75 litres per load, and energy too.