

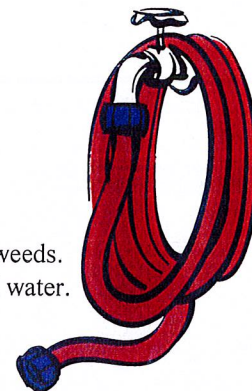
Tips to be More Water-Efficient

Indoors:

- Install a low-flush toilet. It takes 5-7 gallons of water every time you flush a regular toilet and a low-flow will let you save 40-50% of the total water usage in your home.
- Place a weighted plastic bottle filled with water in the water tank of your toilet to reduce your water usage by about 20%.
- Take shorter showers and consider using a water-saving showerhead.
- Turn the water off while you are brushing your teeth instead of running it continuously. Use the tap for rinsing and short bursts of water for cleaning your brush. (This saves about 80% of the water normally used).
- Purchase a water-saving clothes washer.
- Use a rain barrel to collect rooftop runoff and use that water for lawn and garden watering, car washing and window cleaning.
- Promptly repair any leaks or drips in and around your taps. One leak can waste several thousand litres of water per year.
- When hand-washing dishes, never run water continuously. Wash dishes in a partially filled sink and then rinse them using the spray attachment on your tap.
- Only run the dishwasher when you have a full load, on the shortest cycle possible.
- Keep a bottle of drinking water in your refrigerator instead of running your tap until the water gets cool. Rinse the container and renew the water every two to three days.

Outdoors:

- Water your garden every three to five days, rather than for a short period every day.
- Water during the cool part of the day, in the morning or evening.
- Do not water on windy days.
- Do not over-water in anticipation of a shortage. Soil cannot store extra water.
- Do not leave sprinklers running all day.
- Let your grass grow. Taller grass (6.5cm) holds water better and a healthy lawn will choke out weeds.
- Water your grass when it starts to develop a black tinge along the top. Green grass doesn't need water.
- Use drought-tolerant plants.



Ways to protect your watershed

- Asphalt and concrete are your watershed's enemies. As water flows over paved surfaces, it collects soil, pet waste, salt, fertilizers, oils and other pollutants. This polluted runoff flows, untreated, to the nearest body of water. Clean your sidewalk and driveway with a broom, not with water; and try to wash your car on gravel, grass or other permeable surfaces.
- Minimize the square footage of impervious surfaces (such as concrete and asphalt) on your property. Use paving blocks, grass driveway strips, wood decks, wood chips and crushed rock when designing driveways, patios and garden pathways. This will allow rainwater to soak through the ground slowly.
- Don't dump products that contain toxic chemicals or pharmaceuticals on the ground or into sewers, and never flush garbage of any kind down the toilet. Household cleaners, paints, solvents and pesticides and other chemicals can be very harmful to the environment, and materials such as cigarette butts create problems at the lift stations.
- Use natural, organic gardening and lawn-care products.
- Use non-phosphate soap to wash your car.
- Plant trees and support pro-forest initiatives. Soil erosion due to forest depletion results in water pollution.
- Convert your lawn. Native plants tend to be better adapted to local environmental conditions and can require less fertilizer, fewer pesticides and less water than typical grass lawns.