Conservation: Drips and Tips

INDOORS



- Inspect all pipes and faucets for leaks—hundreds of gallons of water could be dripping away every day.
- Check toilets for hidden—or "silent"—leaks. Add food coloring to the water in the tank. If color appears in the bowl without flushing, you have a leak.
- An average tub holds more than 50 gallons of water. Conserve water by filling the tub only partially.
- Install water-saving showerheads; turn off water while soaping up or shampooing; take shorter showers.
- Turn off the tap while you shave or brush your teeth.
- Keep a bottle of water in the refrigerator for drinking.
- Match the load setting on the washing machine with the amount of laundry to be washed. If your machine has no load selector, wash full loads only.
- Load your automatic dishwasher to capacity before running it.

OUTDOORS

- Use a broom instead of a water hose to clear debris from patios, driveways, and sidewalks.
- To reduce evaporation, water your lawn in the early morning or in the evening—and never on a windy day.
- Place a layer of mulch around trees and plants so more water can be retained by the roots.
- Wash the car with soap, water, and a bucket, using a hose with a shut-off nozzle for a quick final rinse.
- Adjust sprinklers so only the lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk or street.
- Cover pools and spas to cut down on evaporation.
- Longer grass means less evaporation. Let grass grow taller in hot dry weather by setting the mower one notch higher. Aerate your lawn.

