

~~~ WATER CONSERVATION ~~~

Abundant, available water is a quality of life issue that our community depends on. It's easy to take water for granted, but it is very important that we each do our part to use water wisely. By educating you, the consumer, to conserve helps in avoiding mandatory water use restrictions when the demand is greater than the supply. Saving water is simple and inexpensive and a little effort goes a long way.

Every Drip Counts

For example: That leaky faucet or toilet, every day it leaks could mean up to 15 to 20 gallons of water. Not a lot, but if every house had that little leak in our district? 15G x 365 days x 9000 services = 49,275,000 Gallons

Leaks are estimated to waste more than 10 percent of indoor water use, driving up water and sewer costs. Conserve water and save money by finding and fixing leaks. It's easier than you might think!

Check Your Meter

Turn off all water-using appliances and fixtures inside and outside your home. Locate the water meter (typically out front of the home or at the property line in a concrete box. Call us if you're not sure!) Check and record the current meter reading. Wait 30 minutes, without using any water inside or outside the home. While you're waiting check and see if there's a leak detection dial on the meter. It is usually a red dial or a small black triangle that spins if there is water being used and is an indication that there is a leak.

After the 30 minutes check the meter again and compare readings. If the numbers don't match you have a leak.

The most common culprits are leaking toilets and dripping faucets.

If you believe your consumption is due to a malfunctioning meter or other factor beyond your control, please call the office and we will send out a crew to re-read your meter and be sure it is functioning properly.

Test your Toilet

Lift the lid off of your toilet and add 5 to 10 drops of food coloring into the tank. Wait 5 minutes and then check the toilet bowl. If you see food coloring in the bowl you have a leak. In most cases, replacing the toilet flapper and/or the filling mechanism will correct the problem.

Leaky Faucets

A leaky faucet is often the result of a bad rubber washer. The washer is typically located under the handle and is relatively easy to repair. Check the internet for instructions on how to repair leaks or ask a local home center for advice. If you doubt your plumbing abilities seek the help of a plumbing professional.

Tips For a Healthy Lawn and Garden

- **Mulch mow your lawn. Set your mower height at 2-inches and leaving the clippings on the lawn. The clippings help retain moisture and you won't need to bag the clippings!**
- **Improve water penetration by aerating your lawn. If you wish to over-seed, wait until fall.**
- **Water wisely. When you do water, water deeply, but infrequently. Water only during the cooler hours of the day, between 7:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. to avoid losing up to half of your water to evaporation.**
- **Consider letting your lawn go dormant. Water deeply only twice a month to keep your lawn alive. To prevent runoff, you may need to water a short time, wait a few minutes, and then restart. Be sure to target your water on areas that receive heavy foot traffic - since dormant grass can be damaged by heavy wear.**
- **Improve your soil. Add compost throughout your planting areas.**
- **Use soaker hoses or drip irrigation. Prevent evaporation, improve soil and reduce weeds.**
- **Pick low-water plants. When you buy plants choose low water use plants for immediate beauty and future water savings. Group plants with similar water needs together. Explore Xerascaping for ideas.**
- **Go to www.wateruseitwisely.com, www.earth911.org or www.nrcs.usda.gov for more conservation info.**

All In-Ground Sprinkler Systems Require a Backflow Assembly

If you have an in-ground sprinkler system using domestic water you are required by WA Code and East Wenatchee Water District Resolution #462 to install a backflow assembly to protect the public water system from possible contamination. Please call, stop by the office or e-mail swilkerson@ewwd.org to see what your system requires. We have lots of useful information available to you and are eager to help you do it right !