

# ***WATER CONSERVATION TIPS***

## ***USE LESS      WASTE NONE***

**Conservation Tips from [wateruseitwisely.com](http://wateruseitwisely.com)**

- When washing dishes by hand, fill a container with rinse water instead of letting the water run.
- Install covers on pools and spas to reduce evaporation. Check for leaks around pumps.
- Use garbage disposals sparingly. Compost Vegetable food waste to save gallons of water.
- Adjust sprinklers to water only the lawn and shrubs, not structures, sidewalks, or driveways.
- Fill a container to wash fruits and vegetables; then use the water on houseplants.
- Check indoors and outdoors for water leaks. Fixing one leaky faucet could save 140 gallons of water a week.
- Laundry – match your water level to the size of load.
- Spreading a layer of mulch around plants retains moisture.
- Clean your driveway and sidewalks with a broom instead of a hose.
- Save 25 gallons of water a month by shutting off water while brushing your teeth.
- Turn water spigots off tightly after each use.
- Turn off the water while you wash your hair and save 300 gallons of water a year. Turn it off while shaving and save 150 gallons a year.
- Wash your pet(s) outside on a part of the lawn that needs watering.
- Use leftover ice in your glass to water a plant.
- Put a bucket in your tub or shower to catch water as it warms and use it to water plants, flush the toilet, etc.
- Don't use running water to thaw food. Defrost food in the refrigerator or microwave.
- Remember to check your sprinkler system valves periodically for leaks.
- Soak pans instead of letting water run while scraping them.
- Use a water-efficient shower head could save up to 750 gallons of water a month.
- Run the clothes washer only for full loads or set the water level for the load size.
- For cold drinking water, refrigerate a pitcher of water.
- If water runs off your lawn easily, water for shorter periods to allow absorption.
- For a reminder, set a kitchen timer when watering your lawn.
- Clean aerator screens on your faucets.
- Newer dishwashers are more efficient; you can reduce rinse time.
- Cut utility bills & conserve at the same time: upgrade to more efficient appliances, shower heads, and toilets.
- Plant in cooler weather in the fall.

**Together we are all making a difference.**

**Your continuing efforts to conserve water and get all of our communities through this water shortage are greatly appreciated. Thanks for conserving water!**

**City of Burlington**



## Home Water Conservation Tips

*Do one thing each day that will save water. Even if savings are small, every drop counts!*

### THE BATHROOM

- Install water saving low-flow showerheads.
- Test for toilet leaks by adding food coloring to the water tank and wait 15 minutes. If there is color in the bowl after 15 minutes, you may have a leak. (Food coloring can stain the tank, so make sure to flush as soon as the test is done.)
- Don't use the toilet to dispose of tissues or other trash. Every flush uses 1.6 to 7.0 gallons of water.
- Time your shower to keep it under 5 minutes and you'll save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Take shallow baths! A bathtub filled half full holds about 35 gallons of water.
- Turn the water off while you brush your teeth and save 8 gallons a minute.

### THE KITCHEN

- Keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator instead of running the tap for cold drinks.
- Avoid running water to thaw food.
- Run the dishwasher only when it is full and you could save 1,000 gallons a month.
- Use a bowl of water to clean and prepare vegetables, rather than letting the faucet run.
- 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.

### THE LANDSCAPE

- Minimize grassy areas, which require the most water.
- Next time you add or replace a flower or shrub, choose a low water use plant.
- Use mulch to help the soil retain moisture and to reduce weeds.
- Use a soaker hose to water plants, trees, and shrubs.
- Plant in the spring or fall, when watering requirements are lower.

### THE LAUNDRY

- Run your washing machine only when you have a full load and you could save 1,000 gallons a month.
- Check hose connections for leaks.

### THE LAWN

- Avoid excessive watering. Most lawns need only an inch of water per week to stay healthy. Measure the amount of time it takes your sprinkler to deliver that much water, and do not exceed the total time for the week. A shallow container, such as a tuna can, can be used to measure the water.
- Reduce evaporation by watering in the evening or early in the morning.
- Check your sprinkler system frequently and adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk, or street.
- Avoid sprinklers that spray a fine mist, which increases evaporation.

For more information visit:

[http://www.epa.gov/watersense/our\\_water/what\\_you\\_can\\_do.html](http://www.epa.gov/watersense/our_water/what_you_can_do.html)  
[http://www.kwo.org/projects\\_programs/Water\\_Conservation\\_Education.html](http://www.kwo.org/projects_programs/Water_Conservation_Education.html)