

SOME TIPS ON WATER CONSERVATION

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Water conservation saves water, energy and money. Some tips to prevent water waste are:

Know where the Main Valve is Located

The main water supply valve shuts off all water supply in the home. If a pipe breaks or any other significant water loss occurs, you should know where the main valve is located. The most likely locations for the main valve are:

- *Where the water line comes into your home from the street.*
- *Near your clothes washer hook-up.*
- *Near your water heater.*

Checking for Leaks

Unseen or unfixed leaks can drip several hundreds or thousands of gallons of water wastefully down the drain, and you are paying for every drop whether it's used or wasted. These are some suggestions to help detect and eliminate leaks:

- *Each quarter, inspect your home for visible signs of leaks. Many leaks are a result of worn washers in household faucets and showerheads.*
- *Bathroom toilets are where you can make the most substantial reduction in eliminating leaks.*
 - *Toilets are notorious for leaks, but they often tend to be less noticeable than other leaks.*
 - *Your toilet may have a leak at the overflow pipe if water is still running into the bowl, or if water can be heard running after the tank has stopped filling.*
 - *You may have a silent, plunger-ball leak. To test for a silent leak, drop some food coloring into the tank and wait ten minutes. If the food coloring appears in the toilet bowl, there is a silent leak.*
- *Check for outside leaks in pipes, hoses, faucets and couplings.*

Other Ways to Avoid Water Loss

- *Use your automatic dishwasher and washing machine only for full loads. Dishwashers will use 12 gallons of water and washing machines will use 40 or more gallons.*
- *Do not let the faucet run when you scrub vegetables or prepare other foods. Put a stopper in the sink instead. Water taps run 5 gallons per minute.*
- *Do not use your toilet as a trash can to flush away tissues, gum wrappers, cigarette butts, insects or anything else that can go into a garbage can. A toilet uses up to seven gallons per flush.*
- *Do not let the water run when you brush your teeth, wash your face, or shave. Most of the water will go unused and straight down the drain.*
- *Use a broom, not a hose to clean driveways and sidewalks. Hosing will use 25 gallons of water.*
- *Water only when your lawn needs it, and when it does, deep soak it and water early in the morning when it is cool. If the grass springs back when you step on it, it does not need water.*
- *Get a cover for your swimming pool. Evaporation can make hundreds or thousands of gallons of water disappear. The average-size pool with average sun and wind exposure loses approximately one thousand gallons of water per month.*
- *Tell your children not to play with the hose and sprinklers. Your garden hose can pour out 600 gallons or more in a few hours.*
- *When washing the car, use a bucket for soapy water and use the hose only for rinsing.*