

USING WATER EFFICIENTLY

GUIDE NO. 2

IDEAS FOR INDOOR WATER USAGE

Water efficiency plays an important role in conserving and protecting our region's water sources and improving water quality. By using water efficiently, you can save money and help protect the environment. This guide along with Guides 1 and 3 were developed to describe ways to use water efficiently.

Water efficiency simply means using less water to provide the same benefit. Average home water use typically varies from 50 to 100 gallons per person per day. The greatest water use is in the bathroom followed by laundry use.

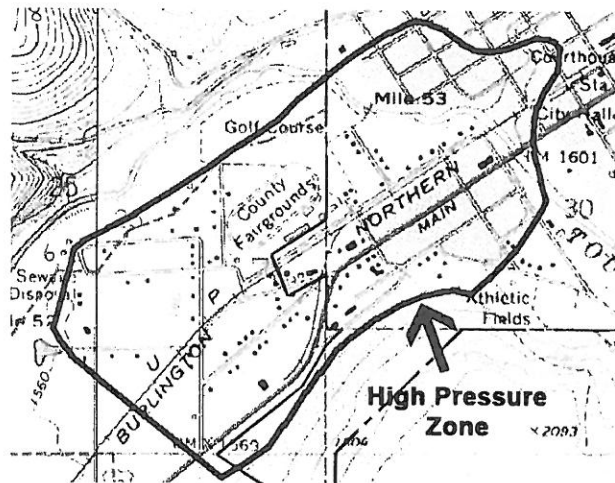
There are many ways to increase water efficiency in your home including installing water saving devices and appliances, and detecting and fixing leaky fixtures, and changing one's water use habits. In this guide, water efficient use ideas are presented for indoor home use.

Water-Saving Devices and Appliances

Installation of water-saving devices and/or appliances can reduce water use in the home. The following is a list of suggested devices and appliances that can reduce water use.

- **Faucet and Showers** - Under normal pressure, faucets and showers can discharge more water than necessary. Installing a low-flow fixture or flow reducer to the fixture can reduce water usage.
- **Toilets** - Install newer high-efficiency toilets than older toilets that use more water (1.6 vs. 5-7 gallons). Filling plastic bottles with water and placing them in the tank reduces the volume of water while maintaining the depth necessary for flushing. Do not use bricks since they can crack and disintegrate causing plumbing problems.

- **Pressure Reducing Valves** – Too much pressure in a water line can cause high flow rates and wasted water. A pressure reducing valve maintains a steady adequate water-supply pressure (say 50 psi) to your home. Higher pressures may be needed in older homes due to mineral deposits in the pipe. Water users with water tap pressure exceeding 80 psi (primarily in the west part of Town) may wish to consider installing a pressure reducing valve.



- **Dishwashers and Clothes Washers** – if your dishwasher and/or clothes washer is old, consider purchasing a model with EPA's Energy Star certification. Energy Star dishwashers and clothes washers use approximately 30 to 50 percent less water.
- **Hot Water Pipe Insulation** – Running a hot water faucet while waiting for the water to turn hot wastes water. Insulating hot water pipes reduces this waste.

Water Saving Tips

Many water-use practices and habits reduce water consumption without threatening health, comfort, or productivity. The following is a list of water saving tips that can be used in the home.

1. Planning and design
2. Soil improvement
3. Efficient irrigation
4. Practical turf areas
5. Mulching
6. Using lower water-demand plants
7. Maintenance.

Trickle or Drip Irrigation

Trickle or drip irrigation allow slow water penetration into the root zone with minimum surface wetting. Installation of this type of irrigation may be worthwhile particularly if large areas are to be irrigated.

Drip irrigation allows a steady supply of water to be delivered slowly to the soil around the plant roots. Often a 60 percent or more savings in water usage may be realized with a drip system. Different types of drip emitters are available, including pressure compensating drippers with various flowrates, half circle and full-circle sprayers, bubblers. Consult with a drip irrigation specialist, manufacturer, or with the manufacturer's literature.

General Watering

- Frequent, shallow waterings lead to shallow roots. Shallow roots lead to more rapid stress under drought or hot conditions.
- Theoretically, outside watering can be accomplished at any time of day, but it is more efficient to water at night or in the very early morning, when evaporation is low.
- Too much water is as bad as, or worse than, too little. Rate of water application should be no more rapid than the rate at which the soil can absorb it.
- Fertilizers spread around plants do absolutely no good unless dissolved. Fertilizers have to be watered in, and soils have to be moist to get the full effect of the fertilizer application.

Resources

- ***Drip irrigation catalog or brochure:***

Pick up a catalog or brochure on drip irrigation systems at a local gardening store, nursery, and home improvements store.

- ***Consult a reference book at the library or bookstore:***

- *Scotts Sprinklers & Watering Systems, Complete Guide to Planning and Installing Landscape Irrigation*
- *Sunset Western Landscaping Book*
- *Landscape Drip Application Guide: A Practical Guide for Designing and Installing Drip Irrigation Systems* by Rain Bird Corporation at www.rainbird.com/drip/literature/index.htm.

- ***For expert advice:***

Contact a hardware store, plumber, or visit the Department of Ecology's water conservation web page (<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/ws/wtrcnsv.html>) for additional links and tips, or contact Washington State University Cooperative Extension drought publications at (<http://drought.wsu.edu/pubs.html>).

This **USING WATER EFFICIENTLY GUIDE** was brought to you by the City of Dayton as part of its effort to use its water resources wisely and responsibly. Questions or comments on this guide or the City's other water efficiency efforts should be directed to the address and/or phone numbers below.

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