

# Water Conservation Tips



## Indoor

### Kitchen

1. Only run the dishwasher when you have a full load – a dishwasher with a full load can consume less water than by washing the same amount of dishes by hand!
2. Fill the kitchen sink when rising dishes, rather than letting the tap run and use a vegetable brush and a basin of water to wash fruits and vegetables.
3. Use your kitchen water to water your ornamental and non-edible plants.
4. Fix your leaky kitchen tap – a tap with a slow drip can lose up to 280 L per week!
5. Keep a jug of water in the fridge for drinking, instead of letting the tap run to obtain cold water.

### Laundry

6. Only use the washing machine when you have a full load of laundry.
7. Purchase and install water efficient appliances – a conventional top loading washing machine uses as much as 150 L per load compared to a high efficiency front loading washing machine using as little as 75 L per load!

### Bathroom

8. Fix all leaky toilets – a leaky toilet can waste up to 450 L of water every day!
9. Turn off the tap when shaving and brushing your teeth.
10. Install a low-flow shower head or take shorter showers.
11. Only fill the bathtub to a 1/4 or a 1/3 full when taking a bath.
12. Use a garbage can in the bathroom and avoid using the toilet as a wastebasket.
13. Place a 2 L bottle filled with water in your toilet's tank to reduce the flush volume – older toilets use up to 12 L a flush!
14. Install low flow toilets – uses about half as much water as an older toilet!

## Outdoor

### Lawn

1. Water your lawn for one hour once a week – it's all your lawn needs to stay green!
2. Leave grass clippings on your lawn to help retain moisture and to provide nutrients
3. Let your lawn "go golden" this summer – your lawn will go dormant and return to its lush state in the fall.
4. Avoid watering during the warmer parts of the day as most of the water evaporates and may burn your grass or plants.
5. Avoid over fertilizing your lawn which increases your lawns need for water.

## Garden

1. Position sprinklers to water only things that grow – avoid watering your sidewalk and driveway.
2. Install soaker hoses or drip irrigation – uses less water than a lawn sprinkler.
3. Install a rain barrel and use a watering can to water garden plants
4. Attach a spring loaded nozzle on your hose
5. Place a layer of mulch around the base of your plants – reduces evaporation so you can water less often.
6. Xeriscape by planting drought-tolerant native plants in your garden – native plants use little to no water as they are already adapted to our climate. Examples include vine maple, salmonberry, Oregon grape, sword fern etc.

## Yard Maintenance

7. Use a broom to clean driveways and sidewalks.
8. Use a bucket of water for cleaning and turn off that running tap.
9. Direct rain water back into our groundwater – avoid pavement and use gravel, stepping stones, lawns, garden beds, trees or grassy swales.
10. Wash your car on your lawn – you can water your grass at the same time!