

WATER CONSERVATION

SAVING WATER IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

Whether you are on a municipal or an individual domestic water supply, water conservation is a wise practice. Here are some reasons why you might want to use less water:

- to save money on your water and sewer bills
- to save money on your power bills by using less energy to heat and pump water
- to make your home sewage disposal system last longer by not overloading it
- to delay or prevent the expansion of costly water and wastewater treatment plants which can save money on taxes
- to be a good environmental steward

Water conservation lets us do all the things we did before... only with less water. It's a matter of finding ways to stop wasting it.

You can also reduce the amount of water you use outdoors. Tips include:

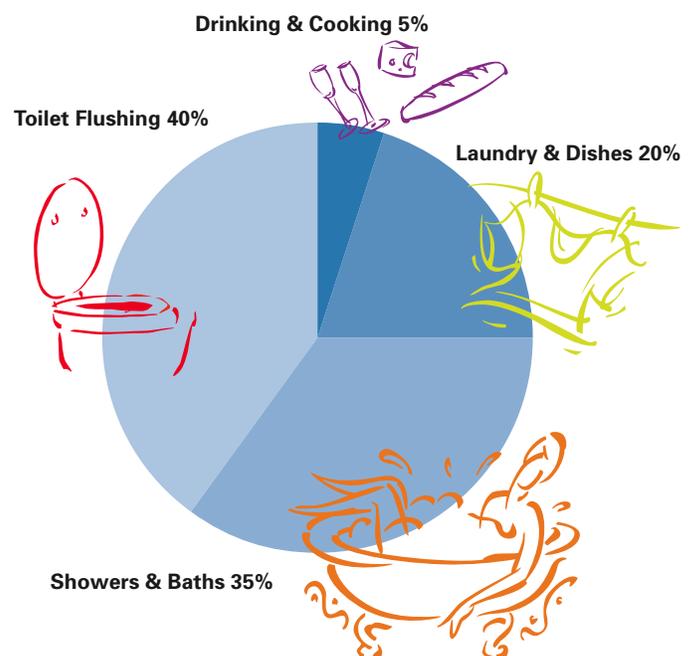
- Adjusting sprinklers to water lawns and not driveways or the sidewalk.
- Watering early in the morning to prevent evaporation.

Water conservation has never been easier. For just \$50 worth of water conservation devices and a few habit changes, an average family of four can reduce their water consumption by over 100,000 litres and save up to \$130 per year. Install toilet dams, low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators, and only wash full loads of laundry and dishes.

It's as simple as that.

Gary McKegney
Program Officer, Clean Nova Scotia

- Catching rainwater in barrels for use later in your garden.
- Planting native vegetation that requires little water.
- Using mulch to save water.
- Setting lawn mowers at 5 – 7 cm to leave the grass longer and leave clippings on the lawn for mulch.
- Letting your lawn go dormant (brown) during droughts. It will green itself after a good rainfall.
- Turning off the hose when washing your car.
- Soaping up your car using a bucket and sponge, then rinsing.
- Sweeping your driveway , never using water to clean your driveway.
- Keeping your swimming pool covered when not in use.



DID YOU KNOW?

Xeriscaping is a form of landscaping that uses little water. It uses native plants or plants well-adapted to the area; improves the soil and uses mulches to conserve water and control soil temperature. Contact your local garden centre for advice on suitable native plants and landscaping techniques that will save you water and money.

PERSONAL WATER USE LOG

Use this water log to discover how much water you use and ways you can reduce your use. For example you may choose to turn off the water tap when you are brushing your teeth or install low flow water saving devices.



Activity	Number of times each day	Total times	Average amount of water used (litres)	Actual amount of water used (litres)
Bathroom				
Washing face or hands			x 4.5 litres (1 gallon)	
Showering (standard showerhead)			x 225 litres (50 gallons)	
Showering (low-flow showerhead)			x 112.5 litres (25 gallons)	
Taking a bath			x 180 litres (40 gallons)	
Brushing teeth (water running)			x 9 litres (2 gallons)	
Brushing teeth (water turned off)			x 1.125 litres (0.25 gallons)	
Flushing the toilet (standard toilet tank)			x 13 litres (3 gallons)	
Flushing the toilet (low-flow toilet)			x 5.625 litres (1.3 gallons)	
Shaving			x 9 litres (2 gallons)	
Kitchen				
Getting a drink			x 1.125 litres (0.25 gallons)	
Cooking a meal			x 13.5 litres (3 gallons)	
Washing the dishes by hand			x 45 litres (10 gallons)	
Using a dishwasher			x 67.5 litres (15 gallons)	
Laundry room				
Doing a load of laundry			x 135 litres (30 gallons)	
In the Outdoors				
Watering the lawn/garden			x 1350 litres (297 gallons)	
Washing the car			x 225 litres (50 gallons)	
Other			estimate	
			Total weekly	

These amounts are estimates only and may vary. Check your appliances and faucets for efficiency ratings.



For more information visit:
www.gov.ns.ca/enla/water/

Adapted from
 "Water, No Time to Waste", Published by Environment Canada 1995

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