

Outdoors

- ◆ Wash your car at home, by hand. Wash it on your lawn and water your grass at the same time. Don't just let the hose run while you're washing!
- ◆ Use a car wash recycles its water.
- ◆ Put a layer of mulch around trees and shrubs to minimize evaporation.
- ◆ Use a broom instead of a hose to clean your driveway and sidewalk.
- ◆ Collect water from your roof in a rain barrel and use it to water your garden.
- ◆ When back-flushing your pool filter, consider using the water on your plants and shrubs.
- ◆ Keep your pool or hot tub covered and check for leaks around your pumps. If you have an automatic refilling device, check your pool periodically for leaks.
- ◆ Plant a rain garden.
- ◆ Keep your street gutters clean. Lawn clippings and leaves add nitrogen to our ground water when washed into storm sewers.

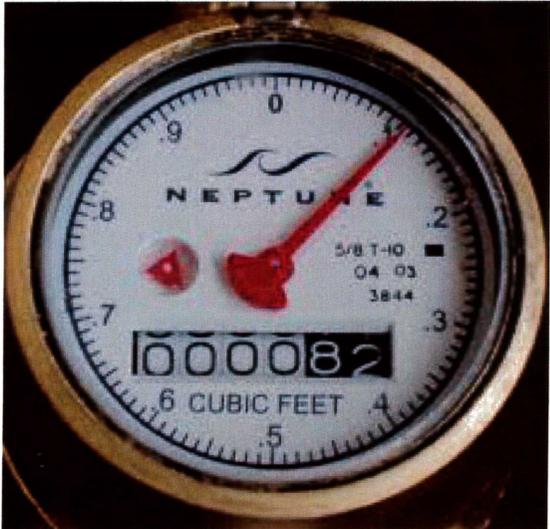


Lawn

- ◆ Adjust your lawn mower to a higher setting. Taller grass shades roots and holds soil moisture better than if it is cut short.
- ◆ Water your lawn and shrubs for an extended time but less frequently to encourage deep root growth and drought tolerance.
- ◆ Use a rain gauge, or empty tuna can, to track rainfall and sprinkler output. One inch of water every four days will keep your lawn green.
- ◆ Rather than following a set watering schedule, check for soil moisture two to three inches below the surface before watering.
- ◆ Avoid watering on windy days and during the middle of the day; you lose too much water to evaporation.
- ◆ Let your lawn go dormant during the summer. Dormant grass only needs to be watered every three weeks or less if it rains.

**SAVE WATER
SAVE MONEY
45 EASY WAYS
To
REDUCE WATER USAGE AT
HOME**

Conserving water is an important part of living in a sustainable environment. Much of our world is now lacks safe, clean water; we don't want to be next! When you conserve water at home, you save money on your utility bills too. Using less water is easy to do. Here are some simple ways to slow down the spin of your water meter.



This brochure was prepared and Distributed by The Rotary Club of Coon Rapids "Service above Self"



Kitchen

- ◆ Wash your fruits and vegetables in a pan of water instead of running water from the tap. Then reuse the water in the pan to water houseplants.
- ◆ Don't use running water to thaw food. Defrost food in the refrigerator.
- ◆ For cold drinks keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator; then every drop goes into you and not the drain,
- ◆ Soak pots and pans instead of letting the water run while you scrape them clean.
- ◆ If your dishwasher is new, cut back on rinsing. Newer dishwashers clean more thoroughly than older ones.
- ◆ Avoid running your dishwasher with only a partial load.
- ◆ When you wash dishes by hand, fill one side of the sink basin with hot water to rinse soap from clean dishes.
- ◆ Use your garbage disposal sparingly. Consider composting vegetable food waste.
- ◆ Install an instant water heater near your kitchen sink so you don't have to run the water while it heats up. This also reduces energy costs.



Bathroom

- ◆ A shower uses much less water than a bath.
- ◆ Install a "low flow" showerhead. If your shower fills a one-gallon bucket in less than 20 seconds, replace the showerhead.
- ◆ Shorten your shower by a minute or two.
- ◆ Keep a bucket in the shower to catch water as it runs to warm up. Use this water to flush toilets or to water plants.
- ◆ Let your young children share their baths.
- ◆ Start your bath by running the hot water with the tub stopper closed, then adjust the water temperature as needed.
- ◆ When you are washing your hands, don't let the faucet run while you lather.
- ◆ Don't let the faucet run while brushing your teeth.
- ◆ Shave with an electric razor.
- ◆ Turn off the water while you shave and rinse your razor in a few inches of water in the sink.
- ◆ Don't use your toilet as a wastebasket or ashtray. Drop your tissue in the trash instead of flushing it and save water every time.
- ◆ Upgrade older toilets. If your toilet was installed before 1992, reduce the amount of water used for each flush by inserting a displacement device in the tank.
- ◆ Put food coloring in your toilet tank. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak.



Laundry, Basement & Inside

- ◆ Washing dark clothes in cold water saves both on water and energy while it helps your clothes to keep their colors.
- ◆ Set water softeners for a maximum recycle period, saving both water and chemicals.
- ◆ Insulate hot water pipes for more immediate hot water at the faucet and for energy savings
- ◆ Avoid running your clothes washer with less than a full load.
- ◆ Read your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter does not read exactly the same, you have a leak somewhere.
- ◆ Water plants only when necessary. More plants die from over-watering than from under-watering.
- ◆ If you accidentally drop ice cubes when filling your glass from the freezer, don't throw them in the sink, drop them in a house plant instead.
- ◆ Make sure there are water-saving aerators on all of your faucets.
- ◆ Grab a wrench and fix that dripping faucet.



This Brochure was created as a public service by the Coon Rapids Rotary as a part of their 2011 Community Water Project. Rotary is committed to fostering both water conservation and prevention of water pollution.